

Issue 85 **£1**
Summer 2003

Jackass!



BUSH SPOTS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION!

News, views, war, sex, it's your summer sizzler! Class War!

Editorial



And Now The Really Hard Part Begins

The conquest of Iraq by the US and UK (with Australia tagging along) was over more quickly than expected. To quickly, in fact, for the Socialist Alliance, who stood as Stop the War candidates in the May local elections!

The only thing that the war achieved was the removal of Saddam Hussein; and even that had to be hidden behind a smokescreen of wmd and links with terrorists. Ever since the Peace of Westphalia (1648), invading a country with an eye to "regime change" has been viewed as illegal. Bush and Blair (and John Howard the Aussie PM) had to lie to their countries, and the UN, to gain sufficient support for their "humanitarian" assault.

The official end of hostilities brought a brief period of rejoicing. Then, once the truth about the absence of WMD joined the lack of links with terrorists as embarrassing topics for Our Glorious Leaders, freedom in Iraq took centre stage as the only achievement they had left to crow about. That's tarnished, too. At the start of May, General Garner said that by mid-May there would be a recognisable nucleus of an Iraqi government. At the time of writing nothing like that has emerged. There has been a retreat from the creation of any form of Iraqi governance structure. Even the Americans' imported Iraqi stooges are furious about the lack of progress!



British troops were welcomed into Northern Ireland in 1969, more than 30 years later they are still there. The Americans are now talking of being in Iraq for up to five years. Time will tell.

In the past, colonial powers took great pains to use local proxies to govern in their place. Now, the United States and Britain have determined that even their Iraqi allies are not subservient enough to be allowed anywhere near the corridors of power, and especially not near the Iraqi oil funds. This may be a wise precaution

in the case of the fraudster Chalabi, yet it is wholly inconsistent with their lofty words before the war. This is a new sort of colonialism, with the naked power of the occupiers openly flaunted for all to see.

The occupation has not been taken lying down by the Iraqis. Every day, US troops are shot at, if not shot. Six British military policemen were shot dead on 24 June. It can only be a matter of time before the Iraqis rise against their new foe. Plans may already have been laid: the million Shi'ite Muslims who went on pilgrimage to Kerbala won't have been praying the entire time!

But even in the half-peace there is at the minute, it's business as usual. Reports in June indicate that Australia is just as happy to profit from the misery of the Iraqi people, in their case by selling Iraq food at what some observers have described as inflated prices. The US is up in arms about this: but only because they didn't think of it first. One might imagine they'd be happy, having control the oil and with billions of dollars of contracts going to US firms, but their greed knows no bounds.

For some Americans the war seems to have succeeded thus far in its aims: as an example to other regimes, as a warning to its allies not to think for themselves like France, to show the UN where it stands, but first and foremost in the effort to gain control of Iraq's oil and markets. The Project for a New American Century must be very pleased with Bush. The other big winner, paradoxically is Bin Laden, a government he hated, that of the "Socialist" Saddam has fallen. The Americans look set to concede one of his long term demands - leaving Saudi Arabia - to set up permanent US bases in Iraq. Meanwhile Islamic fundamentalists are now organising in Iraq, in real numbers. The real losers - the working classes of Iraq, and working class people the world over.



LONDON CALLING

'London Calling' is the monthly bulletin of London Class War. It carries news, reviews and briefing articles, as well as Class War Federation updates. It's available via email or the Royal Mail: take your pick! To subscribe, write to London Calling, c/o the London Class War PO Box, enclosing 6 second class stamps.

Bradford 1 in 12 Club

In our last editorial we referred to the 1 in 12 Club in our article Centres for Solidarity. We stated that the Club had charged the Mark Barnsley campaign for a room. We were wrong to do so, and would like to take the opportunity to apologise to the 1 in 12 Club. We were misinformed, but we should have checked the facts with the 1 in 12 Club before we went to press. Please see the letter from the London Mark Barnsley Support Group on our letters page. Since September 1997 London Class War has edited 12 issues of the paper, the pamphlet, 21st Century Class War, and published Dave Douglass book All Power To The Imagination. One editorial howler in five years is probably not too bad a record.

Notes and Corrections

In our rush to get the Autumn 2002 Class War out, we managed to put the correct issue number, 84, on the front cover, but for some reason managed to call it issue 82 on the inside pages. It was definitely issue 84.

On page 2 of the paper the gremlins had struck again, when we identified the US Vice President Dick Cheney as the President. As even George W Bush knows who the President of the United States is, this was a particularly embarrassing howler. The word Vice-President was on the original caption, honest.

The author of the classic The Scab was wrongly identified. It was of course Jack London.

STOP EUROPE'S BIGGEST DEATH FAIR SHUT DOWN DSEI!

LONDON, UK, 6TH-12TH SEPTEMBER 2003

One of the world's biggest trade fairs for guns, bombs, military planes, small arms, mines and tanks is taking place in London from 9th-12th September 2003. Thousands of protesters, from all over the world, are invited to travel to the UK to help stop this market of death and to deal a blow to the murderous arms business.

Defence Systems Equipment International Destroying Societies, Environments and Individuals - (DSEI) is an arms fair sponsored by the British government. It will host arms buyers from all over the world, including countries on Amnesty International's list of human rights abusers. So much for an ethical foreign policy. Delegates from both the richest and poorest countries in the world will be shopping at DSEI, many of them regimes enthusiastic to crush dissent and slaughter the inhabitants of their own and other countries in the interest of their variety of capitalism.

During the 1990s, civilians made up 90 % of all war casualties. Wars continue today largely thanks to the arms trade. Due to globalisation, the arms companies operate above the law, outside of trade agreements and in favour only of the rich and powerful.

The arms business in the UK harms local

communities. The London borough of Newham, where DSEI is taking place, is one of the poorest in the country. Holding Europe's largest weapons fair at an exhibition centre that overlooks the already impoverished working class estates of Canning Town is no surprise. In fact it is exactly the kind of boot in the face ordinary people have come to expect from Britain's government creating a massive boom in the international weapons industry alongside the global demolition of already pathetic public services.

This call invites you to take part in the day of direct action and to focus actions to hit the death merchants at their multinational offices and military bases throughout London and Europe between now and the end of the fair.

The aim to close down DSEI and damage the industry. The means by whatever is necessary. There will be no guidelines or rules.

Two main actions are being planned aimed at the exhibition on the direct action day. The site has a 2+ mile perimeter including roads, railway stations, an airport and the docks. It is also hoped that assorted affinity groups will decide their own autonomous actions to cause as much grief as possible to these bastards and help shut this obscenity down.

Contact us at:
dsei_da@london.com,
07887620379

Or subscribe to the mailing list at:
www.destroydsei.org

Class War Against Christian Wankers (CWACKERS)

A Hackney Wick church with over 8.5 million of savings is under investigation by a charity watchdog for financial irregularities. The Kingsway International Christian Centre is one of the biggest churches in the country and members pay a 10th of their income to join. The church's six trustees distribute the money contributed by its 12,000 members.

Class War was aware of this when the London group put anti religious stickers up around the Wick area, after the news that a woman on a local estate was being evicted because of debt problems - most of her income was going to the church by direct debit! She was advised that the payments stop, she was shocked and couldn't do this, under the impression that she could buy her way into a heaven that doesn't exist.

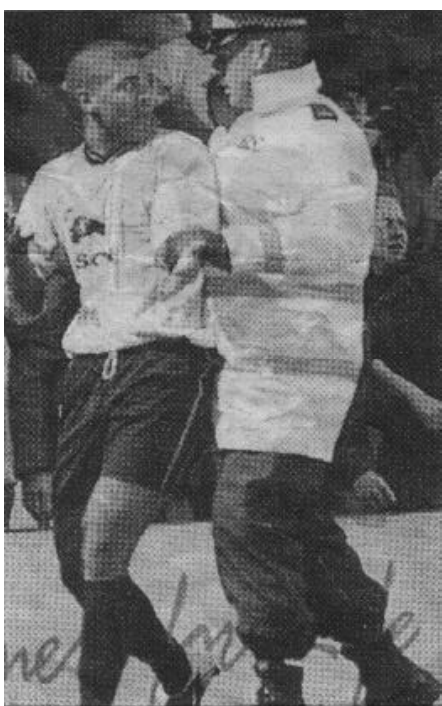
Back in 1996 Class War members in Hackney criticised the church for boasting, in an area of dire poverty, that the average Sunday collection plate amounted to £10,000. Seeing the trustees driving around in Mercedes and BMW is taking the piss, it wouldn't be so bad if the money was going back into the community which it is not.

Hackney Wick is one of the poorest areas in London. Worse, Hackney council are closing nurseries in the same area because they have no money, the religious freaks see this gap and move in for the profit involved. Is God such a cunt..

If They Had Brains They Would Be Dangerous

It is that time again, when we take a look at the thickest of the thick. Can your local cops match the bungling bobbies listed below?

Bristol One of the areas police are most sensitive about is community relations, mainly because they know that deep down everybody hates them. What to make then of the Bristol cops who threw a wobbly at a public meeting on crime, and ordered a journalist and her photographer to leave? The next evenings Bristol Evening Post had its front page written for them, whilst the police were portrayed in a front page article as a load of aggressive bullies who cannot stand any public examination. To make press reporting look accurate is a rare achievement indeed, well done to Bristol's bungling bobbies!



Greater Manchester - Full marks to the unnamed officer at the Oldham Athletic v Burton Albion FA cup tie, who spotted a dangerous figure running onto the pitch when Burton scored. How was our hero to know that the figure he had arrested, dressed in suspicious looking socks, shorts, football boots and shirt, was not a dangerous hooligan, but one of Burton's players?

Gloucestershire Our now regular entry from the west country! Its a good job Christmas comes but once a year for Stroud police. Never mind drug traffickers and international terrorists, as it was an escaped donkey that managed to give Strouds finest the slip, prompting Sgt Mike Yhnell of Stroud Police to tell the Stroud News and Journal "We didn't find the three wisemen or baby Jesus" Dont worry Mike, we suspect that the turkey was somewhat closer to home

Metropolitan Police Special Branch - Red faces all round (as usual) for Britain's political police. Always on the lookout for a bargain, the computer system offered by Protocol Solutions, a Hampshire firm, looked like excellent value. It was, as it was pirated from Microsoft before being supplied to SB and no less than 10 regional police forces. Perhaps somebody needs to go into their offices and see what else is in there that should not be

Staying with **the Met**, shed a tear for now ex PC William Milne. Mr Milne of Hornchurch, was jailed for nine months for three offences of attempting to obtain property by deception between 1993-96. ilne's fiddle (presumably one taught to him by his peers) was to claim he had suffered injuries on duty whilst making arrests.

After receiving 4050 from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for two claims, he got a bit greedy and appealed when a third claim was rejected. The authorities then investigated previous claims he had made, and found three that were "clearly fraudulent". We hope you enjoyed your porridge William!

Bedfordshire - It seems the poor dears of Bedfordshire Police are not being equipped for the task in hand. Nigel Crowe Chairman of the Bedfordshire Police Federation has called for officers to be issued with long johns to keep warm. As Bedfordshire cops seem to spend so much time sitting on their arses how can there backsides possibly be cold?

National Crime Squad - Farewell to Detective Sergeant David Redfern, jailed for supplying cocaine, and to his colleague Detective Constable Heather Bossart, jailed for possession. Both were caught on a hidden camera taking drugs at the house of Redfern's girlfriend, Nicola Bladen in Derbyshire. A total of six other defendants were also convicted. More evidence may have emerged, but for the fact that police installed the camera in the kitchen of Bladen's house, in a place where her cat normally slept. Sadly for the police, hundreds of hours of footage consisted solely of Miss Bladen's pussy.

In what is a very competitive field, our best bungling bobby this issue is undoubtedly Traffic Constable Gary Bretherick of Lancashire police. Chubby Bretherick combined his policing duties with being a linesman in the semi-professional Unibond League, but feared he had got a little too thick around the waist. Come the FA's annual fitness test, Bretherick sent a slim friend to take a series of sprint tests followed by a 2700 metre run in under 12 minutes. But Bright Bretherick unfortunately sent a mate who was some 18 years younger, and considerably slimmer than he is. His ruse was spotted and he was forced to resign by the FA. Those looking to commiserate with Bretherick will sadly not be able to find him bobbing along the streets of his Blackpool beat, as Lancashire Constabulary have since sacked him!



Do As I say, Not Do As I Do

London's congestion charge was introduced on February 17. It now costs a fiver to drive into much of central London. Small potatoes for the wealthy or the middle classes, but enough to price many working class people off the road. This is our objection to the congestion charge - and one needlessly to say that is not shared by Ken or the middle class Greens in London who love him so much - the way is now clear for the rich to drive around central London, without any common rif-raff delaying them. We are expected to squeeze onto buses and tubes on an ever-collapsing public transport system.

Ken however is alright. His preferred method of transport is not the tube he allows himself to be pictured taking so frequently, but the cab. Taxis and mini-



cabs are exempt from the charge. Last year Livingstone spent over five thousand pounds on 226 taxi journeys. That's pretty much one every working day. He even took a cab back from the Labour party conference - in Blackpool.

Buy This Man A Pint!



One man who will never be short of people to buy him a drink is Paul Kelleher from Isleworth, Middlesex. Paul acted promptly when the Guidhall Art Gallery put a statue of hated ex-PM Margaret Thatcher on display. Whilst Thatcher's senility thankfully keeps her off our TV screens, the commissioning of this statue by the Houses of Parliament is an insult to working class people everywhere. An insult Paul Kelleher took personally. Having knocked Thatcher's head off with a metal museum stand (sadly the statue not the real thing!) Paul was tried not once but twice for his "crime". In December a jury

failed to reach a verdict on a charge of damaging property. At this point, the Crown Prosecution Service could have dropped the charges, after all Paul is hardly likely to repeat the offence, as the statue is now in Parliament. Sadly a second trial in January saw Paul found guilty, and jailed for an outrageous three months. By the time Class War is published Paul will have been released. Buy him a drink if you see him!



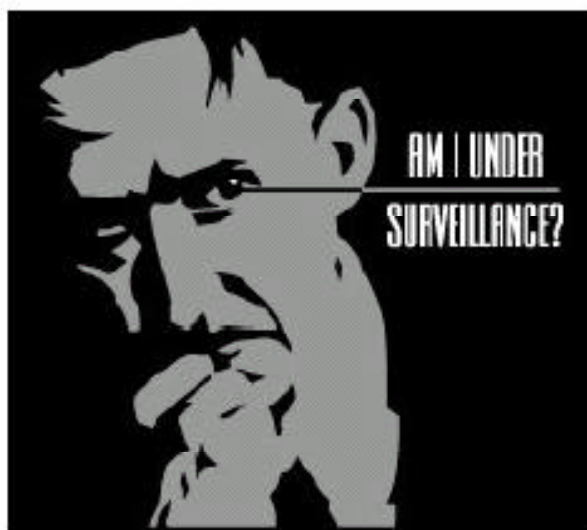
Defy ID!

Class War is a supporter of the Defy ID campaign. The campaign opposes increased surveillance in the UK, and in particular the introduction of any identity card or "entitlement card" by the government. Nobody knows how much information is held - and by whom - on each individual in the UK. The introduction of an ID card gives yet more power to the state and to its petty bureaucrats. This can be resisted however. In 1987 Australians forced their



government to withdraw from the planned introduction of an ID card. Mass protest and opposition worked. Freedoms granted by a card issued by a government are worthless. We already deal with petty officialdom daily, with snarling police officers and cold civil servants. An ID card gives more power to those who are not fit to exercise it. Defy ID!

You can find out more about Defy ID! at www.defy-id.org.uk



Diary Dates

CLASS WAR MEETINGS

London Class War meets regularly, usually on the first Sunday of the month.

For details of other groups meetings, please contact the Class War group nearest to you.

TACT SOCIALS

TACT socials are held in London on the third Tuesday of the month. TACT, standing for Temporary Anti-Capitalist Teams (see review in this issue) is billed as a way for like-minded activists to work together around common aims. At the moment TACT socials are held at The Foundry near Old Street from 7.30pm

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Look out for a Class War demonstration at the CBIs 2003 annual conference.

Anarchist Bookfair

Saturday 25th October 2003
ULU, Malet Street
London WC1
www.anarchistbookfair.org

Genoa - The Mist Begins To Clear

The murder of Carlo Guilani by Italian police in Genoa in July 2001, during the anti-G8 protests, will never be forgotten. The position of the Italian authorities is beginning to crumble however with regards to the later raid at the Diaz School, which was being used as a Social Centre by demonstrators. Of the 93 people arrested at the school on 22 July 2001, 72 were injured. More than a dozen had to be carried out on stretchers as they were unable to stand. All were later released without charge.

A senior police officer, Pietro Troiani, has now admitted to an inquiry that two petrol bombs found in the Diaz School were planted by the police. This revelation, in January, was widely reported in Italy, but received scant attention elsewhere.



Doing The Business

Class War's regular round up from the front line of direct action.

Anti War Demo Thursday 31 October 2002

Parliament Square 6pm People start to gather, usual suspects. Speakers include the same people who seem to speak at all these events Tony Benn, Tariq Ali (another posh old leftie type if people have not heard of him) Being in Westminster brought back some funny memories of May Day a couple of years ago - Churchill just don't look the same without the Mohawk!

About a third of the crowd had masks on with it being Halloween which was a laugh and some people had a banner saying only 58 bombing days till Xmas! Moved off to Downing Street about 6:45 pigged to fuck as usual and the anarcho's getting all their attention do u think they fancy us or summut?

Get to Downing Street at about 7:00pm where there is a bit of push and shove. One copper with a video camera gets hit in face with traffic cone. Tragic! In the pub for 7:15pm - all in all good night out.

PS It ain't my round next time you know who you's are!

Anti-CBI Demo Sunday 24th November, Manchester

The day saw Class War members out demonstrating against the Bosses Union, the CBI, whose conference was being held in Manchester. This was an excellent opportunity for all class conscious people to vent their anger at these rich bastard parasites coming together to talk about screwing us over for the coming year. Unfortunately only Class War and the other anarchists present seemed to grasp what this was all about; Class. The lefty types were out selling their papers and the SWP seemed to be suffering from an identity crisis having all their front organisations out at once, which left some wondering what the fuck this demo was about, Globalise Resistance was there so maybe it was an anti-capitalist demo, but then we had their anti-war coalition and even the ANL stalls there, anti-capitalist, anti-war, anti-racism? Talk about a demo with no fucking theme or direction.

At least Yorkshire Class War's banner was there proclaiming loudly that we were "working class and proud", making it clear what issue had brought us out onto the streets. Growing bored after being offered our tenth Socialist middle-class paper of the day we set off round the side of the building to try find a way into the conference or at least catch the bosses as they entered the building, anger in our hearts, eggs in our hands. Unfortunately all we got was a van load of filth to meet us, they tried in vain to provoke us into doing something stupid (we were well out numbered) by ripping peoples masks off and generally harassing us, par for the course.

After it was clear that all the guys

in Armani suits had gone inside before we got there we made our way back to the front where a chorus of anti-war slogans had started, we added our own "no war but the class war" one which seemed to go down well but we weren't there to chant.

Growing impatient we made our way to the front and tried to get the crowd to DO something, some there were willing to join us and a group of us rushed towards the side entrance, a couple of students managed to get through the lines and even got into the conference centre but the police were too strong in numbers and most of us were soon repelled by them. The students appeared sometime later explaining that they had SPOKEN to the Chairman of BP and been given a plastic bag full of corporate crap by him, which for some reason they seemed quite pleased about; punching him in the face would have been our preferred option!

The demo ended with a leisurely walk around the building chanting slogans to anyone who might walk by, no one did. And to ease the boredom we had to contend ourselves with egging coppers until we headed off to the pub, leaving the lefties to their paper selling. Let's hope next year we can do much better, get the numbers out and maybe securely fasten that plastic bag full of shit pamphlets over Mr BP's head with a rope!

Glasgow Anti-War Demo 15 February

From the outset to us veterans in Glasgow CW, this was going to be the biggest demonstration ever staged in Scotland. Forget the cops fiddled estimation figures, this was huge. We had printed over 20,000 leaflets (thanks Clydeside) and this was not nearly enough. Our hands were sore giving so many out but there was an audience to be covered, many never having been on a demonstration before.

Crowds snaked all the way from the city centre to the SECC. The event culminated in a two hour rally with speeches from the usual motley crew of lefties. During the rally a five minute "Jericho Rumpus" was generated, during which the protestors made as much noise as possible. The march had originally been timed to coincide with Blair's keynote speech to the Scottish Labour Conference, but he addressed delegates earlier in the morning and did a runner, the same time as marchers were assembling three miles away on Glasgow green.



Anti-war demo, Birmingham 1st March

The West Midlands Anarchists went along dressed in black with a banner, black flags, some leaflets about us and the following two placards: "Saddam = Blair = Bin Laden = Marx = Hitler - Down with all rulers!" and "Bin Laden has a predeliction for sexual relations with animals!"

The demo itself was a pointless one, of first listening to boring speeches, followed by a march AWAY from the centre (we got bored and went to the pub after ten minutes, waiting for them to get back), then more boring speeches. We livened these up a little by first trying to sell Class War to George Galloway ("How about some real politics to read whilst having tea with dictators?") and yelling at the speakers with our megaphone, especially when the Labour MP came on, which some liberals got a bit uppity about. Apparently it's ok with them to be ruling class scumbags, as long as you're against the war.

Shortly after this some fundamentalist nutter came and ripped up our Bin Laden placard, and we were soon surrounded by an unholy alliance of Muslim fundamentalists, wet liberals and lefties siding with them, and an official steward threatening to punch us in the face and have people come round to break our legs, although these threats were hastily withdrawn when we offered to settle things there and then. Some gems from this was some liberal claiming that we're only insulting Bin Laden "because he's Muslim" (so not because he's a terrorist bastard then), and a lefty telling me that "this wasn't a time for humour".

After a while they got bored and shut up. But as we were now surrounded by wankers and couldn't lose the megaphone because it wasn't ours, we decided we couldn't boo Galloway, so we retired to the pub shortly after.

On The Piss With The Swiss G8 Geneva, May

Managed to get a cheap flight to Geneva with no worries travelled down to the VAAAG camp in Annamasse there were a multitude of different camps in and around Geneva the VAAAG was the Village of Anti-capitalist Anti-war Autonomus Groups though the camp had its problems (esspecially for people who spoke no french)

The weekend of protests started in Geneva on the friday with a march against borders which went extremely well, the police we not on the ball whatsoever and I was suprised at how much we got away with. We travelled into Genva by a masse train jump pulling the cord before we got into Geneva station to avoid police attention that awaited us at the station. Within mintues of the demonstation beginning the chain locking the gates of the World Trade orgainstion offices had been smashed and protesters started

flowing into the grounds however everyone was so suprised by the fact that we were inside so quickly there wasn't the momentum to move with it and it wasn't long before a combination of fluffies calling everyone back the appreance of tear gas and general confusion meant the crowd moved on. next up was the International Organisation of Migration offices which which were met with a hail of stones before the police turned up with more tear gas, without any fuss as some as the police arrived with gas proesters moved on, there were so many legitamate targets in geneva there was little point hanging about at one. The march continued in the same fasion with the offices of World Intellectual Property Organisation, the International Trade Centre, the Russian embassy, the International Chambers of Commerce, an Audi store and a Shell garage all being attacked. The police maintatined a low profile for the whole day only stepping in once property damage was underway and then fairly late. A masse train hop got us back to the VAAAG no worries the blatant lack of oppostion all day had been strange but welcome.

The saturday showed the problems of the VAAAG as meetings ran on for hours and i understood none of it calls for people to go to Lausanne leads to a split in the camp as I am unaware of what is really going on i stick with the people I travelled with who opt to stay at the VAAAG, Lausanne turned out to have the biggest flash points of the protest and had the problem of not having enough people.

The lack of information all around has a large part to play in this many of the people staying at the camp and the nearby areodrome were more interested in getting drunk and watching bands for alot of the time and the music carried on until the early hours. In fact as we were leaving the camp at 4am to blockade the road to Evian at Saint Cergues some sound systems were still in full swing. We got to the police lines at about half six. then followed a eight hour medieval battle as we built barriers and threw back the constant hail of tear gas cannisters that rained down incessantly. The locals from the nearby village were more than supportive bringing out food, water and barricade materials. The constant meetings that were taking place at the back of the demonstration seemed to have more people at it than the group throwing the gas back but it kept descions democratic at least. We left at 2pm when news that all the other blockades had fallen hours previously and even managed a pool invation match on the way home for good measure!

On Monday a demonstration against water privatisation started outside the WTO HQ we were quickly boxed in by the police, we managed to get a lift in a bus down to the demo but those who had opted to jump the train again were kept back by the police at the station in annemasse we were moved about several times by the police before meeting up with a demonstration against police brutality on mont blanc bridge where we were kept in until the early hours of the morning after being water cannoned and shot with rubber bullets a dunkirk style rescue with a small fleet of buses and cars coming from the VAAAG came and got us from geneva and safely back to camp



Anti-Fascist Work in Yorkshire

Here we go again. Fascist scum, probably tired of sitting at home alone and are on our streets again up north, riding around in packs like the dogs they are, peddling their lies and hate to our class for votes, trying to turn us and our justified anger at our lives against ourselves and our interests; divide and rule in it's oldest form. But they have not gone unchallenged.

In the run up to the Mixenden by-election and in recognition of the threat a win for the BNP there could pose in the May local elections and in our communities, a well attended meeting of committed anti-fascist activists took place in Huddersfield to discuss what to do; Yorkshire Class War was there.

It was a lively meeting with anarchists, socialists, trade unionists and concerned local people getting their heads together and out of it came a commitment to work together, and with others, to take on these degenerate inbreds by whatever means necessary. Hard hitting propaganda was drawn up (copies available on request from Yorkshire CW address) target areas identified and a rota of work agreed; things were moving.

Out on the streets we got a mixed response but people were more than willing to discuss the issues with us and I think we did make an impact stood out on the estates talking to our class. One guy, a taxi driver, even drove around the estate looking for us to give a 40 donation after getting our leaflet through his door, thanks man that really helped get some stuff done!

We met with the Bradford Trades Council and agreed to work together, each week our numbers were growing until we could blitz an estate in a couple of hours instead of the full day it was taking when we began. Our spirits were high.

After nearly a month of our work the fascists came out in their cars, driving by and trying to intimidate us by taking our photos for their pathetic little webmag Redwatch but obviously out numbered they drove off.

Next tactic for them was to call their mates the pigs, who at first turned up in twos and insisted on escorting us, for our own safety! But in later weeks, as tensions began to run higher and our numbers swelled even further they came by the van load, kitted out in riot gear, who were they protecting now?

As election night edged closer we intensified our efforts and pulled in people from all over the area, a block of committed activists were ever present to defend our work should physical confrontation be needed and I do think us being there stopped any physical attacks on their part. On Thursday 23 January, as the results came in our hearts sunk, it felt like they'd stabbed us with a knife; the bastards had got by 28 votes!

After their win we were down hearted but the fight will continue, lasting networks have been formed and are spreading out, trades councils are being reformed to bring the resources of the unions into the fight against these racist scum, benefit gigs organised, our propaganda is being spread far and wide and their win in Mixenden has focused peoples attention on what needs to be done.

The win by the BNP in Halifax is a defeat for our class, a defeat for our communities and a defeat for the dedicated work we had all done, putting aside our differences to fight a common enemy. But it was a defeat in only one

battle, there will be many more to come. The class war is the only war where every battle is lost until the final battle!

The BNP are being helped in their propaganda by the right-wing rags that pass for our media with their obsessive stories about asylum seekers, they are being helped by the big political parties who's only response is to ape the BNP's line. But we can get rid of them if, on this issue at least, if we work together.

You may have already read in the national press that Adrian Marsden, the BNP councillor, has had his come-uppance, getting a well deserved kick-in from his new constituents. A warning for all those thinking of standing as fascist candidates in our cities.

In May the BNP stood over 200 candidates around the country, winning 16 seats. Everyone needs to take this threat seriously and get involved in kicking this trash off our streets, out of our communities. Everyone needs to get out in the streets and build the resistance against, not only these fascist bastards that seek to play us off against one another but this loaded system that they and those like them thrive on. The elections was a clarion call, we need to hear it.

Distractor Flare in Yorkshire

Staying in Yorkshire, one of the thorns on the white rose is the White Nationalist Party, a fascist grouping making a lot of noise in one or two parts of the region. Interestingly two of the main players in the WNP are Eddy Morrison and Tony White.

Morrison has been in and out of



Eddy Morrison, waiting for the local off-licence to open

virtually every far-right grouping in the past 30 years, playing an integral role in all their splits, whilst White has had his marching orders from both the National Front and British National Party. Morrisons major contribution in the BNP was ensuring Searchlight agent provocateur Tim Hepple survived an internal investigation in the early 1990s, whilst White has previously succeeded in convincing both the NF and BNP leaderships that he is a spook.

Birds of a feather it seems, flock together. More seriously it tells us a lot about either the British state, or Special Branch in West Yorkshire (who pays Morrison and Whites wages is something they know better than us) that they can waste taxpayers money setting up pseudo-nazi organisations to go round inciting racial hatred. It is important anti-fascists keep an eye on the puppeteer as well as the puppets.

Copper gets two months inside

The plods in West Yorkshire havent exactly got the best of reputations, stories abound of beatings taking place inside pig-shops, racist attitudes and fabricated statements. It should have come as no surprise to anyone to hear that one of their number had been accused of punching and kicking a young lad in the street outside his own home, after all the new chief cuntstable of West Yorkshires last job was heading the notorious RUC and with a boss with a CV like that what do you expect?

PC Keith Empsall had actually been caught on film laying into Christopher Wilson as he tried to move away from him. As the video evidence of this was shown on our television screens no one could be in any doubt as to this coppers guilt, not even the middle-classes who usually bleat on about "how he must have done something", could pretend this guy had deserved the beating he got. It was Rodney King all over again, only the badges and location had changed.

Fair cop (excuse the pun) youd think, but this thug in uniform of 24 years standing knew this was just normal behaviour for a tit head on the beat, and aware he would be supported by the Police Federation he decided to plead "not guilty", and so we had to fund a farce of a trial. In the weeks following the video the local media went into overdrive, presenting Empsall as the perfect copper "hed won awards" they told us, he had an exemplary record" they said and "he was a good family man", none of this cut much ice though and after his house was attacked by the community exacting its own brand of justice our brave thug in blue had to be moved for his own safety.

His employers were so disgusted by his actions that they came down on him like ton of bricks by... suspending him on full pay for five months! Ah its a hard life being a copper aint it. When the case did come to court it was hard to suppress a laugh as Empsall explained why hed seen fit to kick the shit out of Chris, apparently he had feared he would be attacked by him, the reason being? He hadnt blinked! Well fuck me, if someone goes around not blinking they deserve all they get dont they, it is a wonder he didnt spray him with CS gas to cure him of his waywardness. All of this took place under the snout of another police officer, PC Gunn, who was only feet away while his partner auditioned for the next street fighter film but he saw nothing wrong with what was going on and did nothing to stop the lad being assaulted as he explained that he was "not aware a crime was being committed". Makes you wonder what kind of training these half-wits get doesnt it?

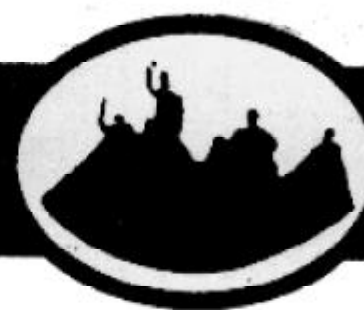
The trial at Leeds Crown Court dragged on for three days and Empsall was finally found guilty, though it took the judge a further month to decide what punishment to give him. After "wrestling" with the decision he finally handed down two months in the slammer. Lets all hope he got an appropriate welcome inside from some of his former "clients".

So let this be a warning to you; next time a pig comes up to you on the streets for fuck's sake BLINK else you might just get a punch in the face and you just know there wont be anyone around to film it when you do.

ACAB!

CLASS WAR PRISONERS

PO BOX 467 LONDON E8 3QX



VIRTUAL COURT HEARINGS

Another strategy by the prison board is to introduce Virtual Court Hearings to save some more dosh. When a criminal case goes to trial there is always

a preliminary hearing at which a defendant pleads guilty or not guilty. The new scheme in Manchester where the prosecution and defence barristers can submit info about the case via a secure Intranet (Virtual TV). This means that the hearing can take place virtually and the defendant does not have to attend court in person. If successful this will be extended again in 2003.

The above may seem to be a way of bettering our cramped Victorian overcrowded prisons, but it is really about saving money to pay the screws more, or to recruit more pen-pushers. Seeing last years riots in HMP Lincoln, and serious outbreaks of violence in Scotland, unrest is brewing in the prisons. With the threat of privatisation and extending slave labour in the work shops, this is probably the first changes of many in the on-going drive for a profitable prison system.

It Could'nt Happen To A Nicer Bloke

Buckets of tears were shed last December when Aaron Chapman was found stabbed to death in his home in Sutton, Surrey. At the time of his death, Chapman was suspended from his job as a Prison officer on suspicion of selling drugs to prisoners in his care at HMP High Down.

Bodybuilder Chapman had what is described as a "Substantial" amount of cocaine and cannabis in his home. Ever wondered how all those drugs get into prison?

Picket of Wilkinson's Leeds Store

Saturday 14th June saw the latest picket of Wilkinson's Leeds city-centre store in protest at the company's continued use of forced prison labour.

Activists from Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Birmingham, and Chesterfield took part in the protest. Several placards and a large banner were displayed condemning Wilkinson's and calling for a boycott of their stores.

As usual the response from the public was good and a number of people signed our petition and even made donations to the campaign. In total, 2000 leaflets were distributed outside the store during the protest, which lasted just over 2 hours.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRISON SLAVERY

Slavery has NOT been abolished in Britain, behind high walls and locked doors it still flourishes. Working class people are being forced to toil in poor conditions, beyond the reach of health and safety inspectors, denied even the most basic employment and trade-union rights, and severely punished if they refuse to work.

In British prisons, there have been savage cuts in education budgets over the past half decade, any pretence at rehabilitating prisoners and empowering them with trade skills has been abandoned. They are now seen as a readily exploitable labour force, a Third World colony in Britain's own backyard, cheap, non-unionised, available, and literally compelled to work.

If prisoners refuse to work, or are not considered to be working hard enough, they are punished placed in solitary confinement, brutalised, denied visits, having days added to their sentences. Private companies are making enormous profits from prison labour, 52.9 Million in 1999, and that figure is growing rapidly. They use it because it is CHEAP

prisoners may be paid less than 5 for a weeks work - and for prisoners there are no sickies, no holidays, no union meetings, no transport problems, and if theres no work they can simply be locked back in their cells. Prisoners are treated as the bosses would like to treat all of us.

The issue of prison slavery is an issue for ALL working-class people, not least because it undermines workers pay and conditions generally. Not because prisoners are somehow stealing jobs, they have absolutely no choice in the matter, but because companies can drive down the wages of their own employees by using prison labour, and it brings with it the threat of short-time and redundancies. The employees of Dysons,

the vacuum-cleaner manufacturer, for example, were thrown out of work when Dysons decided to use cheap non-unionised labour in Malaysia, but how many Dysons workers knew that for some time the company had been using cheap, non-unionised labour at Full Sutton prison? Not surprisingly the latter-day slave-masters are desperate to keep their involvement secret, from their own employees, and from the wider public.

The Campaign Against Prison Slavery exists to challenge and bring about an end to forced prison labour, and to expose the companies that exploit it.

In the 21st Century it is high-time that slavery in all its forms was ended for good.

JOIN US!

Individual Subscription £2 per year (further donations welcome)

Press Subscription £20 per year

Affiliation (Trade unions and organisations) £50 per year

Campaign against Prison Slavery

The Cardigan Centre, 145-149 Cardigan Road, Leeds, LS6 1LJ.

LOSS OF REMISSION

In Class War issue 82 an article about the powers of prison governors was mentioned. Carrying on from this Class War has come across more info about losing remission. The scheme started in October 2002 in four pilot prisons because prison governors could not impose extra days in prison for breaches of prison discipline.

It could mean good news for prisoners rights but knowing our crumbling prison regime we do not hold much hope. The new scheme which involves a District Judge who will hold hearings in the prison to clear the massive back log of cases where prisoners have been accused of breaking prison rules where additional days of imprisonment can be added.

Prisoners have the right to be legally represented at these hearings. The schemes will be extended over the dis-united kingdom in 2003. Once the backlog is cleared there will be a rota of district judges who will visit prisons to hear these cases.

This could be good news in that power has been taken away from the Governor, however will judges be more of a bastard and will prisoners receive a better and fairer hearing if a thing exists in British prisons?

Following this change concerns were expressed about the difficulties of maintaining prison discipline. This has actually led to the disciplinary powers of governors being increased, for example they can now confine an adult prisoner to a cell for 21 days rather than 14 days, and a young offender for 10 days rather than 7. So typically its also a case of one

step forwards, two steps back.

It seems that the governors who have lost a power, have actually gained more power by punishing prisoners for longer periods.

Class War needs more info especially from prisoners who have any experience of the above, write to the London Class War PO Box.



Recently released punt!

Archers Arse Licked by Legal Low Lifes

Lord Archer the tosser is at it again, the screws are probably licking his arse at the moment, surprising what a word like Lord does in front of your name.

After being kicked out from the North Sea nick in Lincolnshire for apparently having lunch with the head of prison security, the screws are flouting all the rules for Archer, who is now in Hollesley Bay nick nicknamed The Holiday Bay in Suffolk.

He then wrote a book of his jail memoirs, even though hes only been inside for 18 months, where he identified inmates which is breaking prison rules, again. How the hell he got them out who knows. After all this he was still given prison leave for Xmas and again at the new year with no loss of remission. Again watch this space to see how low the prison authorities will grovel for their great Lord.

Talking about cheek, Archer has decided to demand an official apology for, believe it or not unfair treatment in prison. He has submitted a 44 page complaint about his punishment after attending a lunch at the home of a Tory MP, he had again broken prison rules on visits out and was transferred to Lincolnshire.

This complaint according to the prison rules may affect his chance of getting parole in the summer he will probably get a full apology & a lick up his backside from prison service chief Martin Narey.

As Class War went to press, the Good Lord was being released.

Riot Round Up

Its a very rebellious world out there!

Wednesday 1st January, Manama, Bahrain -

at least 130 cars were set ablaze, seven hotels attacked and a McDonald's trashed as 2000 poor local rioters welcomed the New Year by going on a merry rampage through an area frequented by wealthy Saudi Arabian tourists.

Wednesday 1st January, Strasbourg, France -

residents of the Neuhof district held their traditional riot, throwing fireworks at police and torching cars.

Thursday 2nd January, West Bank, Palestine -

a riot broke out at a detention centre near Ramallah where over 1000 Palestinians are held without charge, during which they set their shelters on fire and an Israeli soldier was injured.

Friday 3rd January, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe -

a mob attempted to storm the Grain Marketing Board depot in order to get food.

Friday 3rd January, HMP Shotts, Scotland -

80 inmates took control of part of the jail in protest at their visitors being searched.

Friday 3rd January, Patna, India -

thousands rioted, torching government buildings and assaulted police after cops killed three youths.

Saturday 4th January, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe -

people rioted when government supporters were given preference in a line for food aid whilst many people are threatened with starvation.

Monday 6th January, Harare, Zimbabwe -

youths injured four police men whilst waiting in a food queue.

Wednesday 29th January, El Paso, Texas -

pupils at Montwood Highschool walked out in protest at the introduction of longer lessons, and then threw paper and other objects at more than a 100 cops who turned up, hurling abuse at them and school officials.

Sunday 9th February, Omagh, Northern Ireland -

what apparently started as a drunken brawl turned into a two hour anti-police riot involving 200 people who ripped up paving stones and knocked down a wall for ammunition to hurl at coppers.

Tuesday 11th February, La Paz (and surrounding cities), Bolivia -

protests against a rise in taxes and fall in social spending turned into massive riots and looting for two days, with the police going on strike at one point and fighting with the army, and seven government buildings and the largest jail being set on fire. The presidential palace was stormed forcing the President to escape in an ambulance and suspend the tax increase.

Friday 14th February, Seoul, South Korea -

more than two thousand farmers attacked cops with sticks whilst protesting a WTO



meeting.

Friday 14th February, Regina, Canada
prisoners in the Regina Correctional Centre rioted against the conditions inside, smashing toilets, sinks and walls, causing thousands of dollars of damage.

Saturday 15th February, Athens and Thessaloniki, Greece -

while anti-war protesters in London were being praised for good behaviour by the cops, Greeks showed us how it should be done: windows were broken, a car set on fire and rocks and petrol bombs were hurled at police in Athens while in Thessaloniki, protesters, many wearing motorcycle helmets, clashed with police outside the US consulate.

Saturday 22nd February, Nablus, West Bank -

a group of Palestinians threw rocks and firebombs at Israeli soldiers who raided the town to look for militants.

Tuesday 25th February, Buenos Aires, Argentina

squatters clashed with police as they refused to abandon a building, taunting cops and throwing rocks at them and a nearby police station.

Wednesday 26th February, Buenos Aires, Argentina

riot police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at 200 demonstrators outside a federal courthouse where four leftist political activists went on trial. Masked demonstrators responded by throwing rocks and sticks, and one television cameraman was hit in the face by a rubber bullet.

Monday 4th March, Nimes, France

youths threw stones and petrol bombs at police in the working class area of Valdegour after cops shot a teenager dead during a car chase. Cars were set on fire, shops looted and a local police station was rammed with a car. Four cops were injured.

Tuesday 5th March, Baxter Detention Centre, Australia

asylum seekers caused more than \$10 000 worth of damage by smashing doors and windows in protest at not being allowed to attend a cultural event.

Friday 7th March, Brussels, Belgium

dockers started a wave of strikes across Europe, then threw rocks, bottles and paint at police outside the European Parliament.

Saturday 8th March, Chisinau, Moldova

prisoners hurled metal objects and rocks at screws after several cells at the Cricova prison were raided and belongings seized. Cops and screws then opened fire, killing one prisoner.

Saturday 8th March, Pisa, Italy

anti-war protesters fought with riot police after breaking through fences around US Camp Darby.

Gotcha!

Class War extends a big hand of congratulation to an anonymous worker at Bute House in Edinburgh, official residence of Scotland's First Minister. Back in 2000 inaugural First Minister Donald Dewar fell on the steps into Bute House and subsequently died of a brain haemorrhage.

Come the bad weather this year in Edinburgh we are pleased to report that a worker was out pouring hot water on the icy steps. This water soon froze, just in time for the arrival of current First Minister Jack McConnell, who went arse over tit. Unfortunately McConnell's thick head cushioned his fall, and he left hospital after having three stitches in a head wound.

Could we suggest that the Queen visits Bute House as soon as possible and that the Class War reader employed there keeps up the good work!



Slippery scot!

Perhaps The US Had A Point!

How was Bush so sure that Iraq had WMDs which were a threat to the US? We doubt very much he can prove Iraq is a threat to a country on the other side of the world. The main person Saddam was a threat to is his own citizens. But the USA can almost certainly prove that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction. They sold them to him! In December the Swiss journalist Andreas Zumach listed a total of 24 major US companies who had illegally aided Saddam's biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programmes. Needless to say no action is planned against any of these companies, which includes household names such as Honeywell, Unisys, HP, Dupont and Bechtel. German and British firms were also involved in this process, at a time when Saddam was officially blacklisted by the US, UK and German governments.

To expect morals from capitalists as a bit like expecting morals from a tomcat, but it is rare to see the hypocrisy of capitalism laid out so fully. For more on Zumach's research go to www.truthout.org

Support the Firemen!



Amongst all the spin against the firefighters, some facts:

A firefighter is paid 21,000 per annum.

They work 2x9 hour day shifts and 2x15 hour night duties followed by three and a half days leave.

They get no extra pay for working weekends or night shifts

There is no free pension scheme for firemen - instead they contribute 11% of their own salaries

The 40% pay increase demanded by the Fire Brigades Union would take their pay to 8.50 per hour

The government has described this 40% demand as unrealistic

In 2002, MPs voted themselves a pay increase of 40%

For more information on the firefighters dispute visit www.fbu.org.uk or just go down your local fire station and have a chat.

Good News Corner

They may get bigger and better guns every year, and ever more laws to protect them, but US cops appear to be as unpopular as ever. 2002 saw violence against them rise to a four year high, with a whopping 142 cops killed in 29 states.

A special mention goes to the Texas Wildlife Officer run over by his own car, and the 38 officers who found that body armour did not protect them from a righteous bullet.

Heres to 2004, 2005 and beyond!

ADVERTISE IN CLASS WAR

To advertise in Britain's best selling class struggle Anarchist publication, please contact London Class War. Rates are:

1/16th page - £15

1/8th page - £20

We reserve the right to refuse adverts from hippies, known rip off merchants and people with their eyebrows too close together.

Class War's Eye Spy for Demonstrations

February 15 saw the biggest ever demonstration in Britain, as over 1 million people demonstrated against the planned war in Iraq. Taking its cue from the old Eye Spy booklets we all had when we were kids, here is Class Wars guide to the sort of people you can expect to find on some of the major demonstrations.

We suggest you take pen and paper, as well as your Class War Eye Spy guide, to any major demonstration. Whilst London is obviously the best place to play Eye Spy (mainly because it contains more mad people than other British city) many other towns and cities offer excellent spotting opportunities. For ease of spotting we have divided targets into four differing groups the left, religious figures, media and the police.

The Left

The Maoists

Easily the maddest marchers on the left, and that is a very competitive field! The Maoists can be spotted with Chinese flags on bamboo canes, T-Shirts bearing the face of their hero and a usually crass slogan - Mao More Than Ever is typical. Maoist slogans can lose something in the translation, as Down With the Imperialist Running Dogs of Western Capitalism and the Dog Dung Blair is a bit difficult to fit on the average placard.

Staying with dogs, the Maoist Shining Path organisation in Peru used to attach bombs to stray dogs and shoo them into police stations. Under no circumstances should you ever pat a Maoists dog.

10 points

The Sparts

The Spartacist League runs the Maoists a close second in the lunatic stakes. Just as London occasionally receives waves of earnest young men from Utah as Mormon missionaries, the UK in times of class conflict is targeted by political missionaries from the USA. Can the immigration authorities not protect us from this unwanted menace?

Despite seeming to have unlimited funding and a fine range of leftist verbiage, the Sparts have not recruited a single English person in 30 years.

Take maximum marks if anyone you see selling Workers Hammer has an English accent.

3 points if American
10 points if English

Socialist Worker Sellers

SWP paper sellers are ten a penny, so no real excitement here. Occasionally the less on-message SWPer can get confused as to what they are supposed to be doing for whom, where, and when. They may turn up selling Globalise Resistance goods at an Anti-Nazi League event, or Socialist Worker at an anti-capitalist event.

Only score high marks if you can catch them pushing all their front groups simultaneously.

1 Point
5 Points If selling Socialist Worker plus the publications of 2 or more SWP front groups at the same time.

Any WRP Splinter Group

The story of the rise and fall of the Workers Revolutionary Party is a tragedy that encompasses murder, bullying, sexual assault, the raising and wasting of phenomenal funding from dodgy regimes. This was followed by the eventual creation of five or six different splinter groups, each of no more than five or six members.

Known as the Thespian Tendency due to the many actors they recruited (including Miss Jones from Rising Damp) all that was needed to put the WRP into flight was a cry of MacBeth. Actors would scatter to the four winds leaving piles of unsold copies of Newsline in their wake.

To ensure their continued funding from Saddam Hussain, the WRP passed photos of Iraqi Communists demonstrating in London to the Iraqi Embassy. One of the activists concerned was consequently executed after his return to Iraq. If you see a Newsline photographer, be sure to punch the bastard in the face.

3 Points
5 points if obviously actors

A Morning Star Seller

The only daily paper on the left, the Morning Star was not expected to survive after the collapse of the USSR. A huge indirect subsidy kept the paper afloat for years, where tens of thousands of copies were despatched daily to Moscow. We can confidently predict that few Muscovite newsagents had sold out by lunchtime!

Having somehow survived the collapse of state communism, the Morning Star staggers on, as do its largely geriatric paper sellers. Look out for the unlikely sight of any young bloods selling the paper, and spare a thought for any real old age pensioners supplementing the little the state gives them by selling the daily paper of the left.

Aged under 30 5 points
Aged over 80 5 points
Any other age 3 points

A New Communist Party Paper Seller

A significant split from the Communist Party of Great Britain in 1977, the NCP has been dying slowly ever since. Too slowly. Attempts to resuscitate the organisation with younger blood have failed, so it instead relies on injections of cash from some of the worlds worst regimes. If you want to read the benefits of Kim-II-Sung thought or how reports of famine in North Korea is all lies, this is the place to do it.

However it is not just foreign states the NCP like their involvement with the extremely dubious anti-fascist magazine Searchlight shows they are quite willing to cuddle up to sections of the British state. On big demos NCP sellers can sometimes be seen performing the political cartwheel of selling New Worker, Searchlight and Sinn Feins weekly An Phoblacht, strange bedfellows indeed.

1 Point
7 Points if selling the New Worker, Searchlight and An Phoblacht at the same time

Turkish/Kurdish Communists

It is a sobering thought, but there are actually more Turkish Communists in London than English ones. The distinctly unpleasant nature of politics in Turkey means these comrades are undoubtedly safer here than at home, or even in countries like Germany, where many Turkish exiles are on the far right.

The Turks main contribution to the left in Britain has been a series of dreadful Stalinist publications, which by edict of their Central Committee can only be translated from Turkish by the member with the most broken English possible. (Although it should be added a booklet on Turkey Yesterday and Today published by the Anarchist Karambol Publications in 1994 was even more unreadable)

The Turks are also far from sound

on the issue of child labour, employing large numbers of under 16 year olds to distribute leaflets to English lefties too politically correct to say fuck off you little Stalinist and get a paper round like I did at your age The Kurdish and Turkish love of things Stalinist extends to facial hair with Uncle Joe Stalin type moustaches compulsory for Central Committee members. The Turks and the Kurds do get stuck in on May Day however, so we are not going to slag them too much. They also seem to have little fear of the English police, after experiencing the fascist might of the Turkish state, a weedy teenage cop straight out of Hendon is clearly small potatoes.

May Day also brings an excellent opportunity to inspect their banners, with one Turkish group claiming a maximum score of five Communist icons on their banner Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao.

3 points if selling English language publications
5 Points if they are getting their kids to distribute leaflets
7 Points if sporting the full set of Communist icons on their banners

A Fundamentalist Cyclist

There is only one person the fanatical cyclist hates more than the car owner, and that is the pedestrian. Pedestrians do several things that annoy cyclists, but worst of all they commit the cardinal sin of wanting to walk on the pavement, when everybody knows the pavement is designed for bikes. Having cyclists on anti-fascist events as spotters is an extremely good idea. Having them on or around marches is extremely bad news their habit of cycling along the pavement to catch up with friends on the march pisses off the general public, whilst their complaints about car-wankers at traffic lights is similarly bad PR.

2 Points
10 Points if you can find a cyclist who has got off their bike and is pushing it

Green Anarchist

Green Anarchist earned comparatively good sales of their newspaper in the 1990s, before Hampshire Police attempted to shut them down. After 3 members were jailed for incitement in 1998 they won their appeal, and Green Anarchist emerged unrepentant.

The Green Anarchist split in 2000 showed that Anarchist groups can replicate the worst Trotskyist tendencies, with two different papers, each produced by a superbly bearded editor, coming out. Each calling itself Green Anarchist. Each having a membership of single figures.

10 Points if fully bearded,
5 Points if not.

Anarchist Intellectuals

Sadly a lot more common than you think. Having largely left Class War alone since its 1997 split, these characters tend to attach themselves to the environmentalist movement, and in particular groups like Earth First! or Reclaim the Streets. Constantly organising conferences is another characteristic.

Look out for publications with pretentious German language names that dont translate into English (Aufhebn) or glossy well produced magazines that nobody reads, with titles like Reflections on Although we are constantly told these publications are influential there seems to be more people distributing them than there is actually reading them!

1 Point

Labour Party Members

Any Labour Party member who turns up for any demonstration should be told to piss off and come back only when they have rammed their ??????

No points

General Sights of Interest

Whilst less easy to characterise, score 1 point for spotting any of these

- Female raver stood on top of a bus stop
- Male raver hoping to get off with female raver on top of bus stop
- That mad old bloke who goes on every political demonstration, covered in badges
- Drunken punk staggering behind march with a can of Skol Super/Kestrel/Tennants Super/White Lightning/Special Brew in hand

Maximum Potential Score on the Left = 105

Religious Figures

Thankfully most political marches do not attract Priests, Vicars, Mullahs or Rabbis. If you fear there is a possibility of their attendance try to hold any march you are organising on the one day of the week they are busy.Unfortunately, their need to influence their perceived flock is sometimes over powering, and they will take the streets. If this happens they should be roundly abused. Religious ministers seem to particularly enjoy peace marches, which is strange as religion has caused more wars than any other issue, except of course for that of money.

The Eye Spy player should be scoring Holy Rollers in the following manner:

Islamic Mentalist

Characterised by bushy beard and nervous side eyed glances towards any women marchers, the Mentalist normally resorts to shouting Allah Akhbar and not a lot else.

He will occasionally attract the attention of nervous police officers, who are a scared of arresting Islamic Mentalists due to the difficulty they cause back at the station. By insisting on cells that face towards Mecca and access to prayer mats every hour on the hour, the Islamic Mentalist is a formidable foe to any Custody Sergeant.

1 Point

The Nation of Islam

The NOL are often mistakenly identified as a political organisation. They are in practice a religious cult, and behave as such. The Nol will occasionally attend events that are particularly relevant to the black community in London, but do not seem to exist outside of the capital.The campness of the NOL (all those big butch lads, those muscles, the tight, beautifully manicured uniforms) is unconvincingly masked by their outward hatred of gays. Great fun can be

had by getting gay couples to kiss in front of them, or better still a mixed race gay couple.

3 Points
7 Points if spotted outside of London

A TubThumping Protestant Minister

Rarely spotted outside of its natural habitat of Northern Ireland this male (females of this species are unknown) is characterised by its loud call of No Surrender. Although this call is repeated with sickening regularity, it is thankfully only heard in a very narrow timespan, referred to as a Marching Season.

Unfortunately the Protestant Minister can become extremely aggressive if the route of his march is blocked. Should the minister be invited to speak from the platform, you are strongly advised to turn the PA system down as low as possible.

5 Points
7 Points if spotted in England
10 Points if spotted in the Republic of Ireland!

The Vicar

Jolly good show, up the revolution vicars were the backbone of CND for years. Frequently spotted on anti-apartheid demonstrations, they could occasionally be found sitting down in the street waiting for the police to arrest them.This desire to take the moral high ground, whilst simultaneously surrendering to the enemy, dominated anti-nuclear politics in Britain for a generation. Rarely spotted on demonstrations since the 1980s, the Vicar would be an extremely annoying person to be in a cell with.

South African Vicars used to provide particularly embarrassing scenes where white Vicars would attempt to dance alongside black marchers, although thankfully the downfall of apartheid has returned these pastors to their church halls.

3 Points

Orthodox Church Ministers

With fine black robes, flowing beards and crooks that can make excellent weapons, representatives of the Orthodox Church add a bit of a variety to the dulllest march. Sightings are rare however, and you may have to look for a demonstration in support of Greek Cypriots or Serbs in Kosovo to spy one.

10 Points

Maximum potential score on religious figures = 46

Cops

Fat Cops

All that sitting about, the fear of going outside into a wider world where everybody hates you, the subsidised canteen, all those nervous caf owners who will give you free food, those US cop shows and those mouth watering donuts...

You can see why some of the Polices finest officers can end up, well, a little bit porkie.

7 points
10 points if you can spot the Royal Parks Police officer in Hyde Park who looks like Geoff Capes without the muscles

Unconvincing Undercover Cops

Whether or not its the shifty smile and false camaraderie, or the crap moustache and the rugby shirt, sometimes you can just spot the bastards.

7 points

Police Photographer Disguised as a Press Photographer

Very common on May Day, this gentlemen will attempt to merge in with other photographers, or even the crowd itself. Even when it is pointed out to him that he has been spotted with Police Intelligence teams in the past he will attempt to bluster, claiming to be working with an agency.

One sure way to spot this slimeball is observing the ratio of pictures of the crowd he takes compared to pictures of the police. Most newspapers or demonstrators like to get at least some shots of the police lines, a picture that is useless to the under cover cop.

5 points

Searchlight Photographer

Searchlight magazine has been the leading investigator into the far right in Britain for some 30 years. For most, if not all of that time Searchlight has worked hand in hand with the security services, and has spied on and smeared left wing, anti-fascist and anarchist activists.

Given they are supposed to be an anti-fascist intelligence magazine, Searchlights photographers spend an inordinate amount of time attending left-wing and Irish republican events, photographing all and sundry. Mostly these pictures do not appear in any publication. Can you guess where they end up?

3 Points

Maximum score on cops = 32

Media

After politicians, the profession regarded as most untrustworthy by Britons are journalists. Anybody who has ever read some of the coverage of major demonstrations in London, or the coverage in the weeks proceeding events like MayDay, will understand why these vermin are so roundly despised. Journo-watchers should be able to spy the following characters on any major demonstration, and possibly even on some of the smaller ones

The Friendly Journalist

He likes you. Oh, how he likes you. He wants to get your side of the story, because all those other journalists are not as nice as he is. In fact he was a bit of a radical himself when he was at university. When he starts telling you that another newspaper is really going to dish the dirt and he is your best chance of setting the record straight, you know he is getting really desperate

3 Points

The Trainee Journalist

Just as chummy as the friendly journalist, the trainee journo is characterised by his/her eagerness. The

most minor movement of the crowd or shift in police formations could be the beginning of the big story that could get them a permanent job on one of the nationals, if only they are on the spot when something big happens!

Do not waste your time speaking to the trainee journalist unless they have indicated that they have access to an expense account. As they are liable to let their new found importance go to their heads, and often do not understand expense account procedures, it may be worth your while to get them in the bar and standing their round!

5 Points

The Big Name Journalist

One of the saddest sights at May Day 2000 was the BBCs Nicholas Witchell, wandering forlornly amongst the demonstrators. The BBCs Royal Correspondent had to slum it with the masses for a whole week-end, and he hated it. Whilst it is comparatively easy to recognise the big -name journalist, he lives in fear of the unkindest cut of all -not being recognised. Make sure your eyes meet his for just a second or two, that brief moment of recognition is all he needs to feel self-important for the whole day.

Finally we all know there is one BBC journalist who is always sent to scenes of death and destruction. If Kate Adie arrives, assume she has got inside information that the cops plan to shoot everyone. Get the hell out of there!

5 Points

The Spook Friendly Journalist

Most, if not all newspapers have a journalist whose role it is to liaise with the security services on behalf of that paper. At The Observer for example Martin Bright officially fulfils this role.

There may also be a relationship between the editor and MI5 or MI6, whilst crime correspondents have traditionally enjoyed close contact with their local police force. These contacts are often brought into play come major demonstrations, where the journalists tend to know little about those taking part, and the police/security services wish to influence the public against them. The end result is a succession of smears and inaccuracies, perhaps the most famous in recent years being Mr Brights claim in The Observer that Anarchists intended to attend MayDay armed with samurai swords.

As these buggers rarely leave the office, score high marks if you can spot one

10 Points

Media Studies Student

This timewaster not only expects you to be nice to them, but also wants you to help them do their homework! For the Media Student there can only be two words, and one of them is off!

No points

Maximum potential score on media = 23

206

150+

100-150

75-100

50-75

Under 50

Maximum Score. Youve been cheating!

Well done, you have clearly been on a massive demonstration that has attracted an excellent range of interesting characters!

Not bad, the day has not been wasted

Clearly one or two interesting sights, but have you missed some people you should have spotted?

Be honest, you spent most of the day in the pub didn't you?

Waste of time, whoever organised this march needs to up their game

Eye Spy Scores

CLASS WAR CONTACTS

.....

E Mail classwaruk@hotmail.com
Telephone 07931 301901
Website www.classwaruk.org
Discussion Board http://flag.blackened.net/wwwthreads/

.....

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Glasgow CW glasgowcw@hotmail.com
London CW PO Box 467, London E8 3QX
www.londonclasswar.org
Luton CW lutonclasswar@hotmail.com
Yorkshire CW PO Box 6, Craggstone, Wakefield WF4 3WX,
yorkclasswar@hotmail.com Tel: 077 155 17094
South Wales CW c/o London CW
Tyne & Wear CW Tel: 0774 839 4217
Bedfordshire CW Tel: 01582 750601
Norwich CW PO Box 487, Norwich NR2 3AL

.....

Industrial Contacts
Miners Advice and Welfare www.minersadvice.co.uk

.....

International Contacts
Australia Class War c/o Suite 20, Princess Highway, Sydney 2224,
Australia
Website www.classwar4real.com
E Mail classwar4real@hotmail.com
Class War Europe Postfach 160 127, 33721, Bielefeld, Germany
E Mail bexy1972@lycos.de
Houston Class War Box 667204 Houston, Texas 77266-7204
email: **ClassWarHouston@aol.com**
Prisoner Support Class War Prisoners, PO Box 467, London,
E8 3QX

.....

Hunt Sabs Class War Hunt Sabs, PO Box 135, Basildon, Essex,
SS15 5SA

.....

Also Recommended
Other groups well worth checking out include:
Norwich Anarchists PO Box 487, Norwich NR2 3AL
Stroud Valley Anarchists svanarchos@yahoo.co.uk
Czarny Blok PO Box 43, 15-662 Bialystok 26, Poland
Haven Distribution BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX
Brighton ABC PO Box 74, Brighton BN1 4ZB

Spot the Difference

Is Class War the only newspaper to recognise the similarity between the traditional Royal Mail red postbox, and Cherie Blair QC?



Cherie Blair QC



Last posting is 6.30pm

Joe Strummer Going Down Fighting

On December 20th 2002, Joe strummer died of a suspected heart attack. Most people remember Joe as the Clash's front man and singer of such class war classics as White Riot, London Calling and loads more. However, his real claim to fame was that his latter band, Joe S trummer and the Latino Rockabilly War, led the Class War 'Rock Against the Rich' Tour in 1988!

The tour was organised on a Saturday afternoon drink up in the Warwick Castle Pub in Notting Hill. Class War's Ian Bone talked to Strummer about an idea he had of a rock tour touring the country's most impoverished areas and basing each gig around a local issue of class conflict.

In London, in the heat of the summer of '88, the burning issue was the take over of working class areas by rich bastards, namely yuppie scum. Remember, fellow troublemakers, that this was a summer without an outdoor festival in London, so the idea that Ian presented to Strummer was a massive free gig in London, to begin a national tour...smack bang in the middle of the Isle of Dogs - the area being promoted by Thatcher as the role model for inner city rejuvenation.

Our plan was to hold a massive festival on the Island, get 50,000 people there, close off the only 2 exits to the Isle of Dogs with over turned BMW's, and start a riot and burn every fucking yuppie flat to the ground. We had the head of the local tenants committee on our side, and the event was ready to go....then this prick of a bastard named Ted Johns, stabbed us in the back by withdrawing his support, and the open air venue from us, and then as final insult to us and his fellow

Islanders, by accepting a position on the board of the opposition, the London Docklands Development Corporation....hopefully he now rots in a grave and will go down in history as traitor to the working class.....

So we had stubbed our toe, but fuck it we booked out the Brixton Academy and filled it like a sardine tin, and we were off and racing on what was promising to be a tour of confrontation, riot, rebellion and revelry. Each gig, was to be based around a burning local issue. The plan was as follows...

Newcastle at St.James Park right when the idea was being proposed of selling the ground to property developers ...Edinburgh - on the biggest council estate in the city on the same day as the Edinburgh festival...Playing at the Durham Miners Gala...you get the general idea, this was to be the biggest threat tour wise, since the Anarchy in the UK tour...Strummer was totally up for it and considered the local issue idea as brilliant since radical politics was so dominated by issues and agendas which were middle class orientated and two million miles away, in all ways, from the working class.

Like all good ideas, it got watered down in some ways, and the confrontational nature of the tour was lost. The tour ran into financial problems, and Strummer bailed us out with 11,000 pounds of his own hard earned, which showed his heart was in the right place.Joe had a total fucking ball on the tour, getting pissed, on the pull, and generally acting like a class war lout...

One of his final gigs before he died was a benefit for striking fire fighters at Acton Town Hall. Here he was re-united with Mick Jones for the first time in 20 years. He will be much missed by all who loved his music, and by us for what he did for Class War.

Quotes

"By using our brand name, this group is getting instant validation for its racial hatred and anti-semitism. This dishonours our history" Former Chief of Staff of the Black Panthers, David Hilliard, on a sorry shower based in Texas calling itself The New Black Panther Party.

"What am I doing? A lot more than you may realise....." Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins unconvincingly addresses his constituents in his monthly Luton on Sunday column.

"As many as 30 British policemen have been identified as users of internet child pornography sites in the American investigation which led to the arrest of the liaison officer assigned to the family of Jessica Chapman the number of officers arrested, however, remains in single fingers"
- The Daily Telegraph of 14 September 2002.

"It is believed there could be more than 100 serving officers on the FBI list - if their colleagues ever get round to questioning them" - The News of the World 1 December 2002.
Nice to know the forces of law and order are working night and day to protect the weakest in our society!

Subscriptions to Class War continue to rise



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Class War Merchandise

Books

All Power To The Imagination by Dave Douglass	£5
Class struggle, trade unions, the miners' strike, and all for a fiver!	
Anarchist by Ian Bone	£3
Hard hitting debut novel from Class War founder member Ian Bone.	
In The Hands Of The Enemy - Mark Barnsley's Struggle For Justice	£3
Published by Mark's campaign group, this book covers a brief history of Mark and the campaign for him, before various supporters write of their experiences campaigning for Mark and against the state. Includes articles by members of Cheshire and South Yorkshire Class War. Recommended.	
The Rich at Play published by RPM	£4
A serious look at The Countryside Alliance, fox hunting and land ownership in the UK. Articles by activists from Class War, Corporate Watch and RPM. Essential reading if you hate the people who "own" this green and pleasant land!	
Unfinished Business - The Politics of Class War	£4.50
The Class War Federation's most complete statement of its politics to date.	
Turning Up The Heat - MI5 After The Cold War - Larry O'Hara	£5
Yet more superb work by the overweight researcher in a suit	

Pamphlets and Magazines

21st Century Class War: Introduction To The Fed	£1
Manifesto into the new millennium.	
Animal	50p
Issues 1, 2, and 4 are still available of the class struggle magazine with the big heart and low quality production values! 50p each.	
Bash The Fash: Anti-Fascist Recollections 1984-93 by K Bullstreet	£2
The first in a series of recollections from active anti-fascists.	
Beaten Up, Fitted Up, Locked Up: Mark Barnsley And The Pomona Incident	£2
Essential reading for anybody looking to support the campaign to free Mark.	
Class War -1 back issue	20p
Class War -3 back issues	50p
Are you missing copies of your favourite newspaper?	
London Calling	free
Please send an SAE to get the free monthly bulletin of London Class War	
Notes From The Borderland issue 4	£3
Latest magazine from Larry O'Hara's camp looks at state manipulation of those campaigning against the EU, strange goings on in the CPGB and an interesting evaluation of May Day 2001. Add updates on BBC fraud Donal Macintyre, the Soho bombing, the ITP and Nick Griffin this really is a must read.	
Up Against The Odds by John McArthur	£1.50
This pamphlet gives an account of the JJ Fast Food workers strike in Tottenham from 1995-6.	

Australia Class War Pamphlets

Their Worst Fucking Nightmare	£1
36-page pamphlet packed with action ahead of theory. If you like reading dull theoretical texts written by men with food in their beards, avoid this pamphlet like the plague!	
Interviews with the Class Warriors	£1
Conversation with some of the young men and women involved with Class War in Australia.	
War on the Streets - The third and final Aussie CW pamphlet.	£1
Details who we are fighting, why, and how we intend to take the battle to the bastards.	

Class War Clothing

T-shirt: Class War - Probably The Best War In The World	£8
Bottle Green Carlsberg style shirts available in small, medium, large and fat bastard sizes.	
	£6
Women's Stretch Tops	
available in the following designs:	
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Dead Kennedys - Logo	
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Class War - CW design and slogan	
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Thick black tops that definitely keep out the chill. Extra large only.	
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Tony Blair - Wanker!	
Anti-Rich League	
Class War - Just Do It!	
CW logo	
Harry Roberts.	
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Records

Anti-Royal Anthems	£4
21-track CD featuring 'anti-monarchy' songs from 'Mahnig Street Preachers', Sex Pistols, Catatonia, Exploited and loads more.	
Class War Spoken Word Series	
We are pleased to launch 3 new CDs, courtesy of our group down under:	
"Street Corner Rants - Class War Poets From The Housing Estates"	£4
Something old, something new but definitely nothing blue!	
"Bash The Rich"	£4
Informed political opinion over a driving drum and bass soundtrack. Keep it hardcore!	
"Class War On The Streets"	£4
More drum and bass, this time with a new commentary on the world we live in, with a special emphasis on the rich and powerful.	
No Border Jam	£6
30 track CD, live from the 1998 'No Border Festival' in Maribor, Slovenia.	
Stop The War Benefit CD	£12
London CW has the new Peace Not War double CD available. Tracks are included by Public Enemy, Ms Dynamite, Crass, Coldcut, Fundamental and Massive Attack, amongst many others.	
Class War Presents - Stand Up and Fightback	£6
14 classic reggae tunes of resistance.	
Fight The Shitstem - Stand up and Fightback Reggae Compilation Part 2	£6
18 reggae greats.	
Straight Outta The Ghetto - 100% Class War Hip Hop Volume 1	£6
16 rap tracks to inspire you to action.	
Straight Outta The Ghetto - 100% Class War Hip Hop Volume 2	£6
20 urban classics.	
Tribute To The Australian Bushrangers	£4
Folk CD celebrating the rebellious lives of Australia's bushrangers and early settlers. The sort of history the kids on Neighbours did not get taught!	
Working Class Anthems	£4
12 folk tunes for the night shift.	
Class War Presents - Fuck the Government	£6
21 tracks with all your punk rock favourites.	
Street Punk from the Concrete Jungle Volume 1	£6
The golden era of punk rock. Where have all the boot boys gone?	
Street Punk From The Concrete Jungle Volume 2	£6
More of the same!	
Street Punk From The Concrete Jungle Volume 3	£6
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Class War Presents - Discharge Live	£6
Discharge live from their 1981 "Apocalypse Now" tour.	
Class War Presents - Fuck the Police	£6
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Very fucking class war explicit lyrics over 23 cutting tracks.	
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Class War - Incitement to Prison Riot	£5
Fourteen tracks with a band bars theme. If you don't fight the law how do you expect to win?	
Insurrection - Incitement to Riot Part 3	£4
If you liked the video, why not get the soundtrack.	
Videos	
Insurrection - Incitement to Riot 3	£8
(57 minutes) New Class War video featuring the best of street protest and action from around the world! Taking in Seattle, Prague, Genoa, Woodstock the second, London plus the odd sighting of Homer Simpson and Harold Bishop(!). Remember everybody's got to keep fucking everybody else until we are all the same colour!	

To order the latest merchandise please tot up the total cost of all the items you want, add 10% to cover our postage and then send a Cheque or Postal Order to:

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Cheques made out to "London Class War" only. For bulk order rates please phone or e-mail for a quote.

Australian Class War has an excellent merchandise catalogue available on request from: Class War, Suite 20, 26 Princes Highway, Sydney 2224, Australia.



The 1 in 12 Club

Dear Class War

The last edition of Class War stated that the 1 in 12 Club, Bradford, charged a fee to the Mark Barnsley Campaign for the use of their premises. We, at the London Mark Barnsley Campaign Group, acknowledge that no fees were charged by the 1 in 12 Club for use of this room. We recognise the 1 in 12s commitment to the supportive work that they have offered to past and present campaigns.

In our defence, we can only say that information received was inaccurate. For any misunderstanding concerning the fee involved, relating to the use of any space offered by the 1 in 12, we can only offer our sincerest apologies for any embarrassment caused to the 1 in 12 collective for our failing on this occasion.

We as activists have learnt a valuable lesson. Check your facts thoroughly before you report your news.

Signed

Sean, On behalf of the London Mark Barnsley Campaign Group

CW Reply: We echo this, please see the apology in the editorial.

"Anarchy Up North"

A few people in Lancashire, including members of Lancashire SF and the Lancaster Anarchist Group, are considering organising an event in Lancaster next year around May/June. This would be a combination of bookfair, workshops, discussion meetings with speakers from outside the anarchist movement and social events. We see it happening over a weekend starting on a Friday night. We hope to approach known bands and comedians as well as employing local talent for the social events.

We want this to be as wide ranging as possible and open to all anarchists and sympathisers to get involved. We also want it to be an event that would attract non-anarchists so it's not just the same people talking to each other. We need to reach out of the 'anarchist ghetto'.

The purpose of this email/posting is to gauge the interest before we go ahead with any definite arrangements. We have thought about having it around the Mayday weekend but realise that others may be planning events. The other possible dates would be in early June.

We want reactions to the idea to see if it is worth going ahead and to make sure if we do that it does not clash with any other events. If you are interested please contact us by the first weekend in August with your thoughts, ideas, criticisms. If it does seem like a viable idea we will organise a meeting at the Anarchist Bookfair and bring some concrete proposals to it.

You can contact us at anarchyupnorth@boltblue.com or c/o Lancashire SF PO Box 29, Preston, PR1 8XF

My Big Fat Greek Riot

Due to the reputation of the Greek anarchists, I assumed that the protests against the EU summit in Thessaloniki would end in a riot at least as violent as Genoa. I arrived in Greece a week before the university was occupied. This was to get to know the layout of the city and also to meet the Greeks. I ended up hanging around with the Anti-authoritarian Movement Salonika, one of three major anarchist factions in Thessaloniki, and from what I could gather, the best organised, most disciplined group with the best politics. The other factions were the group who worked quite closely with them, doing the less glamorous anarchist work such as the Indymedia Centre, and the younger more disorganised group who were called the insurrectionists by everyone else.

Coming from the UK, the Anti-authoritarian Movement seemed amazingly professional. As well as the fact that for a recent anti-war demo they managed to bring together a block over 500 people strong to attack the US consulate with, there were little things which made them seem more serious than any other group I've come across, like cleaning the downstairs of their office in the city centre everyday. They were the first group to squat the university on the Saturday, and did it very cleanly without having to break anything. They just asked for the keys, and got them, and for the week that we were there the building they were in stayed more or less as we found it, with maybe a bit of extra graffiti, although there was lots to begin with.

This was a big contrast with the insurrectionists, who also seemed to have a lot of nihilists with them (the ones who went around writing "destroy everything" everywhere), who squatted their building on the Monday by smashing their way in and then running around inside for half an hour breaking as many doors and other stuff as possible, letting off fire extinguishers and all sorts of crazy shit. Now, while this may be great fun,

tactically it was incredibly stupid, as in Greece the police are not allowed on the university campus unless a serious crime has taken place and they are invited on to the premises by the university authorities, so if things had continued they could have brought the cops in before we were fully prepared. As they were planning on sleeping there for a week, it also seemed pretty stupid to smash it up the day they arrived. So there



were fairly big differences between them and the anti-authoritarians.

Anyway, after an interesting week of discussions and gigs up to Thursday, the action started with a peaceful march in solidarity with illegal immigrants. This wasn't peaceful because of fluffiness or anything dodgy like that, it was peaceful because there were illegal immigrants on the march, and the march went straight through a working class area, so breaking stuff would have been counter productive. Even so, a peaceful Greek anarchist demonstration is not the same as a peaceful demo in the UK: here it means you walk from A to B and listen to some tossers with big egos at the end, while in Greece you walk from A to B, beat up journos, through a few rocks and bottles at the cops, spray graffiti on the route and break a few cash points. Even so, the cops didn't attack, and we managed to have an impressive several thousand strong anarchist presence on the streets of the city.

Thursday night consisted of planning for

the demo on Friday. This would consist of going in coaches out to the Halkidiki peninsula to the small village of Neos Marmaras near the place where the summit was being held. From there we would march towards the summit until we reached the police, who we would then "hit with big sticks"! Some people also went to a secret workshop and made three boxes of paintbombs (as well as some piss and shit bombs, as a special treat for the cops). As the area we were going to was in a pine forest, the Anti-authoritarian Movement had promised to the residents (who specifically asked for the anarchists to come and not the Communists) that they wouldn't use fire, no molotovs were made... well, not for Friday!

On Friday we all had to get up early to get into fifteen coaches which were completely filled (and that was just the anarchists) for the hour and a half journey to Halkidiki. Amazingly we weren't stopped by the police on the way, although if we had been then we had arranged for all the coaches to stop and for that place to be treated as if it was the Red Zone, and as I was in the coach full of hard as nails Greeks this wasn't too much of a worry. After a march to the village and waiting around on the beach for the rally held by the villagers for all the trots and liberals to finish, we set off along a small road towards the Red Zone in a fairly tight block, most people armed with a nice thick flag pole, goggles and gas masks (although not enough people had these). On the way we could see the filth off to the side of the road, but resisted the temptation to attacking them there and then.

Finally we got to the bridge which the filth were protecting, but unfortunately the Ya Basta padded up types had got there before us, so before more than a few paintbombs could be thrown, the teargas started. This was my first experience of tear gas, but apparently this was stronger than anything that had ever been used in Greece before, and in fact had only ever been used in Palestine until then, so even the Greeks were suffering, which started

a panic, not helped by there being people at the front without even a basic gas mask. It was nasty stuff like powder rather than just gas which burned the skin like sunburn, but once I wasn't being stampeded, as my gas mask and goggles were working fine it was actually quite fun, and if I hadn't been trying to film at the time, and could see without my glasses through steamed up goggles then I might have been able to throw a few more rocks with a bit more effect.

Anyway, the retreat soon slowed and we built a quick barricade in the road, before those not completely overcome by gas armed themselves with rocks and slingshots and moved to the frontline to hold back the cops. We succeeded in slowing them down a bit, but in the end they just overwhelmed us with teargas and charged forcing us to retreat back to the village, where there was more fighting on the beach. Due to the size of the road we were forced to stay in tight formation, which is probably why there were no more than eight arrests, which is pretty amazing considering the suicidal nature of the mission.

Once we'd recovered, Friday night was spent preparing for Saturday, which was to be a big demo in the city centre, and was expected to be a massive riot. There were big arguments in the Anti-authoritarian squat as to what the best tactic was: a big tight block going straight to the target of the US consulate or several smaller looser groups roaming around the city. The insurrectionists were also planning, both in their squat and also in the camp they'd set up elsewhere in the university. There were also rumours of several molotov factories at work all through the night, at least one making over a hundred proper ones with styrofoam which we capped like normal beer bottles with a rag tied round the top, rather than some of the dodgy homemade ones which had a tendency to leak everywhere. There were also some beautiful big metal shields made with slogans such as "Behold Your Future Executioners" and "Anarcho-Thug Life 4 Eva" on, but these were unfortunately

wasted the next day.

In case there was a repeat of the attack on the school in Genoa, me and some friends put all our bags and stuff we didn't need for the demo safe off the campus on Saturday morning. Then late in the afternoon, around four, the groups started to gather. Unfortunately, the insurrectionist types were the first to start gathering, so they appeared to be the biggest group, so most people thought it would be safer with them. This left the Anti-authoritarian Movement with much fewer people than expected and so they couldn't form a decent enough block. Naturally the shields went to the biggest group, but the insurrectionists refused to use them because of some macho attitude, and some of those who helped make them weren't strong enough to carry them, so they weren't used nearly as effectively as they could have been.



The march set off as probably the worst possible combination of the two preferred tactic, one big loose block, and immediately the nihilists started attacking stuff, such as those evil weapons of the capitalist oppressors, the traffic light and the street sign, and small family owned shops. Don't get me wrong, in some situations like building a barricade then anything will do, but this really was for no reason. And it wasn't as if there were no other targets. As we marched down the main street fireworks got fired at journalists on the roof, banks got attacked, and some other worthwhile targets, although whether this was a good idea is debatable, as at that stage it just slowed us down in getting to our primary target, and those things could have been done on the way back. And there was more stupidity as mollied were thrown at unbroken windows so people couldn't get near enough to break them, and shops were set on fire with little old ladies living above them, who were hardly the ultra-rich scumbags.

Still, there was some fun stuff, such as smashing up the Communist Party headquarters and McDonald's. In Greece the trots are fairly small, but the Commies are huge, and they're proper Stalinists who regularly beat up anarchists and hand them over to the filth, so it was great to see that getting trashed. But even with the ritual trashing of McDonald's it still wasn't brilliant, because the first person in the door was followed by three petrol bombs flying over his shoulder.

Around this time we seemed to run into the back of the liberals' demo, which was slowed us down even more, and suddenly there was a big crush. My goggles had fogged up again so I didn't know what was going on, but then I could smell teargas and the people in front of me started running, so I did as well, going up a side street, dodging burning barricades until we eventually came out on a big square above the Social Forum march. Here we

slowed as the police weren't chasing and came back on to the main road, but by now we were mixed in with trots and liberals making fighting back harder as they got in the way. Again I had to run up a side street and this time I could actually see the pigs running behind me, but I managed to get away with a smaller group and to my disappointment I found myself at the Communists demo. The Commies had decided that in the absence of an official Red Zone in Thessaloniki itself, they would make their own, and as there were a lot of them and very few anarchos, as well as the danger of plain clothes coppers, I ditched my stick, gas mask and goggles and got my camera out (which I'd not used that day in case I got beaten up by nutty nihilists) and pretended to be a tourist.

For a while I wondered around wondering where my mate had gone until I ran into some other Anarchist Youth Network people, and together we went to a cafe, before going back to where we'd left our stuff. On the way we found a TV showing the riot, which was the first we saw of Simon of the Wombles getting nicked. The riot was pretty much over an hour after the demo had started, and we didn't find that much destruction apart from one burnt out mobile phone shop and a trail of bloody footprints. Having checked our stuff, we decided to try to return to the university, and found we could walk straight passed lines of riot police without them doing anything. We ended up going through the trot camp to get to the anarchists, where I found my mate and learned what had happened to the rest of the demo.

Basically it had been a straight forward ambush, and after I'd left the main demo they'd managed to retreat to the uni where they fought a pitched battle with the filth until they were allowed back in. A couple of undercover cops and a couple of journalists were beaten up and held captive, and there was a bit of a paranoid atmosphere as no one knew if the campus would be attacked or not. In the end we decided to leave, and despite the campus being completely surrounded by police we just walked straight through the without a problem, although it was quite odd as there were police all along the road outside the place we were staying.

The next day there was a solidarity demo, but due to disorganisation we missed it, but we learned later that it was attacked by the police. So in the end it had been a bit of a disappointment, with 80 people arrested in total, although all but 8 were released by the following week. Those remaining could all face up to 25 years in prison, and include Simon Chapman of the Wombles, who had several bags of molotov cocktails planted on him (there is video evidence of this). For more details on Simon and the other prisoners and how you can help, e-mail thessalonikiprisoners@yahoo.co.uk



THIS IS CLASS WAR

The Class War Federation is an organisation of groups and individuals who have come together to change the Society we live in, to improve the lot of working class people.

This Society is divided into classes based on control of its institutions and wealth. The Ruling Class - those who "own" the factories or natural resources - whether it's through shares or being chairman of the board etc., who are under normal circumstances supported by the Middle Class - those who gain their position in society by patronage of the Ruling Class - who carry out their dirty work of controlling and (dis)organising the working class who do all the necessary work. Such a society is the root cause of most of the problems experienced by Working Class people the World over. as the Ruling Class has every intention of keeping its privileged position it must be destroyed - this is Class War.

Real change can only come about by working class people organising themselves to deal with the problems that they experience and to provide for ourselves.

It is not about becoming better treated slaves but masters of our destiny. Direct action is necessary against the individuals and institutions who stand in the way of this. There is no alternative. Violence is a necessary part of the Class War - not

as elitist terrorists but as an integrated part of the Class - they started it, we'll have to finish it!

Class society creates other abuses based upon the prejudices of Ruling or Middle Class such as gender, ethnic origin, sexuality, disability. The Ruling Class often use these to divide our class. We must unite on the basis of we have in common our Working Class backgrounds and needs.

The Class must fight these divisions, on all fronts. Above all the CWF believes that politics cannot be separated from life - and life from politics. We reject the missionary/ righteous so called "revolutionary" Left. Our politics must be fulfilling and relevant to our every day lives.

Working Class people must take responsibility for their progressive revolutionary politics - fly by night middle class radicals have been the bane of our movement for as long as the Working Class has existed.

OUR AIM

Therefore the aim of the CWF is to increase the militancy and self awareness of the Working Class in defending their interests and solving their problems. We do this through propaganda, active participation and debate as equals.

Join Class War!

Class War membership costs £12 per calendar year (£6 unwaged) and is open to anybody who agrees with our politics and has been in touch with their local Class War group for 3 months. Drop us a line to get involved!

Discussion Page

The Class War website now has a lively discussion page, where you can find handbags at six paces on a whole range of issues. Just click on the heading "discussion board" and scroll down to the bottom of the page.

BOOKS | NEWSPAPERS | RECORDS | NEWSLETTERS | CD's | FANZINES | VIDEOS

REVIEWS

Crime and Modernity John Lea Sage, 2002



This book provides a detailed grasp of the dynamics of society. Describing the current motor of capitalist society in this period and the associated regime of control and punishment, Lea uses such terms as destructive reproduction and punitive sovereignty. The first term is how capitalism reproduces itself today by destroying the societal fabric, and the second refers to how policing is basically a fire brigade response into working class areas in force to attack the subjugated citizen. Lea shows that fragmentation is a key characteristic of society today, as opposed to the incorporation of the post World War Two years.

With interesting comparisons of the aggressive masculinity of the ghetto, and the share dealing rooms in the City of London, Lea points to the normalisation of crime as a key feature of contemporary capitalism, both by capitalists and as destructive individualism in the ghettos.

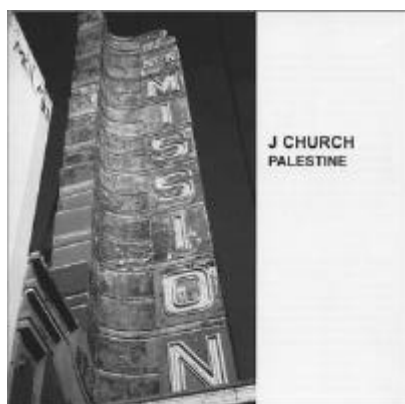
There is also good analysis of the blurring of boundaries between war and crime with recent examples from across the world, including crises of governance within the USA. However Lea says there is hope and choice, the poor are resisting with progressive social crime of their own, in various traditional and new ways. Away from the barbarism of capitalism and towards socialism!

Finally there is one anomaly in that, even though Lea correctly castigates the destructive role of the state, he then says we must reclaim it as help in the process of social inclusion. Whilst at the same time substantive social equality is necessary for realistic change.

This left realist agenda does seem at times to be at odds with analysis that says the state is the executive of the bourgeoisie, and does not think progressive change will be possible from structures made for domination.



Palestine J Church Honey Bear Records



Class War received two 15 track CDs to review from Honey Bear. The first one Palestine by J Church (no its not religious) was a bit of Iggy Pop meets David Byrne, a bit rocky. It is a benefit CD as their office burnt down.

Lyrics are original and new, which is unusual especially in the English music scene, this being American!



Toxicity System Of A Down Columbia Records

Another American band, not just for spotty teenagers and students. Good lyrics and an alternative style, great song about American prisons and Amerikkkan oppression. Go to HMV, tape it, take it back and get another CD free.



D.F.I. Honey Bear Records



Politic yes, and a bit more heavy & punky, for all you punk rockers a must!
Go on get in touch:

honeybearrecords@hotmail.com
HONEY BEAR RECORDS
1730E.Oltorf#135-Austin
TX 78741,USA.



TACT - Temporary Anti-Capitalist Teams Pamphlet

(20 pence or a donation from BM Box 3328, London WC1N 3XX)



TACT is about offering a method of working, a way for those in struggle to work together (something that is often a lot more difficult than it sounds!) The TACT pamphlet sets out what could be roughly called an umbrella structure for doing this, as well as giving an insight into why we need to struggle together.

TACT could certainly offer a structure to groups looking to work together on an issue - for example anti-fascism - in a particular city or region. How many town based class struggle groups have come and gone in the past decade, only to collapse through bad blood, sectarianism or stupid decision making?

You can find out more about TACT by visiting www.temporary.org.uk

Bending The Bars - Prison Stories

John Barker
Christie Books

Despite the occasional ghostwritten biographies of would-be gangsters, the cod-Porridge rubbish The Guardian is fond of, the more recent bullshit of ex-Government ministers, and the genuinely informative articles written by the likes of John Bowden, prison for the most part is still very much a closed world.

John Barker is someone from our own movement, one of those comrades sent down in the 1970's for daring to take on the British State as members of the Angry Brigade. John went to prison in 1971, and stayed there for 7 long years. This is a collection of stories written then, and published together now for the first time. As John says in the introduction to Bending The Bars: "Impossible to convey the longueur - the 'length' and 'tedious parts' of those 7 years, but what is possible is to give a feel for the jail, the

times, and the crack for cons who aimed to eat as little shit as possible."

The world John describes is the world of the 1970's high security prison, a world of uniformed warders in slashed-peaked caps, of piss-pots, pig-meal porridge, and 'diesel' (prison tea), but one where through collective solidarity long-term prisoners were able to win a few concessions to humanity. Despite in-cell TVs and toilets, conditions for today's long-term prisoner are as John readily accepts in many ways even worse than they were in the 1970's.

I was first imprisoned in 1980, and so for me there was a certain familiarity in the compelling tales contained in this book. Many things may have changed over the years, but psychologically the reality of prison life is much the same - crushing boredom, frustration, casual brutality, and constant attempts to dehumanise people. For those aware of the possibility of imprisonment there's a great deal to be learned from Bending The Bars, and it provides a unique insight into a piece of all but forgotten history.

In 'The Sit Down' John describes the effect outside political action (in this case the miners strike) has on the prisoners, with working-class militancy beyond the bars being reflected by the growing militancy of those locked-up. Little victories, like the smuggling in of a radio, encourage

the boldness to greater expectation and the willingness to fight for better prison conditions. "Action causes its own momentum." Resistance is it's own celebration. Unfortunately, the concessions to humanity John and other prisoners fought so hard to achieve in the 70's and 80's have been virtually handed back to the System on a plate by today's cons.

The militancy of prisoners on the Scrubs long-term wing forced some screws to take a pragmatic approach, others inevitably remained as hard-line as ever, taking any opportunity to wind the cons up. John and his mates thought a lesson was in order, and an exciting account is given of how a full-scale gloss paint attack was launched on the worst screws in reprisal for their behaviour.

Another feature of the nicks back then were the Firms, with alliances struck between groups of cons for better or worse. Escape was also very much on the agenda, but unfortunately for John, it wasn't to be.

John writes of all aspects of prison life, from racism, to the workshop routine, to seeing the doctor and being down the block. Nothing is shied away from, and his accounts have an easy flowing style.

Of prison work, John tells us "It was nearly all unskilled manual work, as if they wanted cons to feel at home doing the kind of work they'd become criminals to avoid."

Receiving mail is usually the highlight of every prisoner's day, and this was particularly the case back in the days of monthly visits, and before the introduction of card phones. Like most cons John liked to savour the experience, "I hate rushing a letter, it's something to take slowly like a

bath.”

Not many things in prison can be enjoyed at length, and that is certainly the case with ‘association’, when just as you’re enjoying stretching your legs or having a laugh with your mates, some sour-faced little man shouts, “End of Association”, and it’s time to be locked behind your door for yet another night. “Now this is the time you really know you’re not free. You’re talking, feeling good, but it ends not when it’s ready to end but when that fucking tannoy starts.”

In ‘Manoeuvres’ John suffers his first attack caused by the sensory deprivation of solitary confinement, a condition most long-term prisoners will be familiar with even if they cannot name it, the notorious ‘K Complex’.

Later in the same chapter reports reach the cons at Long Lartin of the 1976 Hull Prison uprising. John feels frustrated at not being in a position to offer solidarity, but when two ex-Hull screws, right bastards, are posted to Lartin in the wake of the riot, it’s a provocation too far. “I could do with some adrenalin, half the time I feel I’m coasting through this too easy.” The cons talk of what to do, and a sit-in protest is organised to follow the showing of the weekly film. The collective show of strength by the prisoners forces the departure of the two ex-Hull screws.

For the political prisoner there is a daily struggle to maintain integrity behind bars. “Every question that should be political becomes one of self, of whether or not I lived up to my standards, to the way I see myself.”

After an inter-prison visit to Holloway to see his co-defendant and lover, John expounds, “It’s a truism and it’s true that jail can only work if the cons let it work, but there’s another side to the story. There’s the knowing how to live with people in a small space, a necessary respect between cons that gave us the chance of coming out sane.” Words as relevant now as when they were written.

John went to prison in 1971 aged 23, and came out in 1978 aged 30. Near the end of the book, he tells us “We can understand conditioning, understand such a process exists, even the hows and whys, but that doesn’t mean it hasn’t happened to us.” None of us who go through the nightmare of long-term incarceration survive it undamaged, all we can hope to do is survive. John most certainly did, and 25 years later he’s still fighting for a better world. His courageous spirit, his endurance, his unwillingness to surrender, his continued passion, these alone are an act of vengeance against the system that imprisoned him, and a testimony to a great man.

Like all great prison memoirs Bending The Bars captures the spirit of indomitable humanity, a defiant slap in the face for all those twisted little men who may have held the keys to John’s freedom, but who never ever came close to breaking him. It is a tragedy that it has taken so long to publish these stories, but they are still a relevant, compelling and hugely enjoyable read, the best insight I’ve read into the closed world of British high security prisons in the 1970’s. Buy it.

Mark Barnsley

Mark Barnsley is a Yorkshire based Anarchist who was framed by the state in 1993.

Anarchism
Sean M Sheehan
Reaktion Books £12.95

There seems a vogue for authors to go outside their usual field for their new books. An English professor at Middlesex University did so, writing the passable “Violent London”. Here, a travel writer with a book on Wittgenstein to his name turns his hand to anarchism. The result is surprisingly enjoyable.

Sheehan’s definition of anarchism is sufficiently broad that the Guardian, in its review, said it might better have been called “Radicalism”. This is true, and slightly detracts from the book’s value. However, Shhehan’s obvious enthusiasm for the subject makes “Anarchism” a compelling read.

Among the high points of the book are his critique of primitivism, a crushing putdown for our technophobe friends! The main problem with the book is that it reads like a first draft. This is not entirely a bad thing. The fun Sheehan had in writing the book is evident, and this makes reading it fun. However, the arguments jump around a bit, and it could have done with minor editing to correct this. Sheehan asserts that the besieged at Sidney Street weren’t anarchists - but doesn’t support this with a footnote.

And, his greatest sin of all, Sheehan says that Class War were wound up in ’97. We did not “dump arms” in ’97!! Still, more seasoned commentators than Sheehan have made the same mistake, and the rest of the book more than makes up for that lapse.

Sean Sheehan’s produced an interesting survey and introduction on anarchism for anyone interested in politics. Well-written, intelligent and thought-provoking, it’s the book to give someone developing an interest in politics. Many people would disagree with, for example, Sheehan’s depiction of Oscar Wilde as an anarchist. Nonetheless, a good addition to the surveys of anarchism.

However, it would receive a higher rating if it were a few quid cheaper!



The Only Good
Fascist Is a Dead
Fascist

13th November saw the tragic death of Birmingham National Front member Jason Spence. Spence was shot dead in the Great Barr district of Birmingham, on his drunken way home from the pub. Whether or not he had time for a last kebab is not recorded! The loss of this knob provoked much whining and wailing on Fascist websites, and more memorably provoked one anti-fascist to rhyme

There was a young man named Spence
Who hadn’t kept up with events
He sold more than pot
And quickly got shot
Then bled to death on the fence

Even more amusingly the fascist rag Voice of St George whittered about what a family man Spence was, and how he had been married for 17 years. This is odd, as the same article told us he was only 31. We know the fascists have some pretty strange practices, but do they really marry at 14?

Leading By Example

News reaches Class War that Prince Harry may fail his A levels this year. According to one of his mates “Harry is not stupid, but his teenage years have been tough”. Very tough. All those parties to go to, Hunts to attend and all that pot to smoke.

Usually the upper classes will find an alternative career for particularly stupid offspring (look at the help Prince Edward has had over the years) but hopes that Harry could be dumped on the Army have been dashed. A member of Eton’s Army Cadet Force, Prince Harry missed a recent exercise in Belize due to “a sore foot”. Not exactly a man for the trenches then!



Legalised Mugging

Many local authorities have now taken over parking control from the police. This means that parking disputes are subsequently judged by independent adjudicator’s rather than the courts. As these adjudicator’s publish annual reports, you can get an indication into how your council is going about its business.

In London, the majority of drivers who appeal against a parking ticket win their appeal. This is despite a system that encourages people to pay up (even if in the right) by offering a reduced penalty the sooner you pay. Outside of London motorists are winning approximately 1 in 3 appeals. That means that over 30% of tickets should never have been issued in the first place. In Haringey an astonishing 95% of appeals are successful. In Hounslow the figure is 93%. The gangs of traffic wardens that now stalk our streets are behaving little better than muggers. The more tickets they issue the more they get paid, and the more money council’s have to waste on daft schemes and prestigious offices. The people losing out are, as usual you and me. If you get a parking ticket appeal all the way. What have you got to lose?

Narey and Collusion

2003 saw the release of a book by Irish journalist Chris Anderson, The Billy Boy The Life and Death of LVF leader Billy Wright which amongst other things, casts prison service chief Martin Narey in a very bad light. Class War has no brief for Loyalist paramilitaries, and like many others take the view that Billy Wright was a murderous sectarian thug. When certain loyalists began to recognise at least some of the limitations of the Loyalist position in Northern Ireland, Wright remained a dinosaur. His 1996 split from the Ulster Volunteer Force, whom he denounced as socialists, seems to have been motivated as much

by his desire to carry on saying No and to have a freer hand to kill Catholics in mid-Ulster, than by any detailed political opposition to the peace process. However, Anderson presents a substantial case of collusion, by either the Prison Service, Security Services or both, in Wrights murder by INLA inside the Maze Prison in 1997. And Martin Nareys name crops up frequently in the narrative, especially as the author of an report into an earlier escape from the Maze. The government falsely claims this also served as a public inquiry into Wrights death. The British Irish Human Rights Watch has called for a full public inquiry into Wrights murder. When or if such an inquiry is held perhaps it should also have a look at the role played by Martin Narey in delaying the truth coming out in this matter. And ask whether such a person, who would play a part in the cover up of the murder of an inmate, should be heading the Prison Service?

The Glasgow
Clearances

“The Department of Health have naturally been anxious to ensure that no major new incoming industry to Scotland should go into Glasgow”

“..... the main planning objectives have been the containment and, if possible, the reduction in size of the Glasgow conurbation” “At the time of the Local Employment Act, the DHS had further conversations with this Office with the object of seeking assurances that the effect of the act would not be to renew pressure to bring industry to Glasgow.”

All of the quotes above come from advice to Scottish Ministers in 1960 from the Board of Trade. Scottish historian Ian Levitt’s research suggests that the Scottish Office, based in Edinburgh, had a long-standing policy of running down Glasgow. No other Scottish city faced similar restrictions. This was accompanied by the setting up of new towns, often far from Glasgow, where some 400,000 Glaswegians settled following slum clearance in Glasgow. Most were given no choice as to where to live. Glasgow it seems was a little too harsh for some in Edinburgh, and memories of Red Clydeside in 1919 still strong. Hard to believe today, but in the 1950s the Tories had a significant base in Edinburgh, and looked with real concern at what they saw as the red menace to the west. History books have long debated the gerrymandering of electoral boundaries in Northern Ireland by Ulster Unionists, but Conservatives in Scotland believed that by building new towns, a prosperous Tory voting working class would emerge. It looks like gerrymandering from where we are sitting.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST
PRISON SLAVERY
Picket Of Wilkinson’s
South Shields Branch

On Saturday 28th June 5 comrades distributed 400 CAPS leaflets outside Wilkinson’s South Shields branch. The group are keen to do more pickets, anyone interested in getting involved in the North East should contact Tyne and Wear CW.



The Prawn Sandwich Express

New Labour has shown itself incapable of building, to time, large scale developments like the proposed Picketts Lock Athletics stadium, or the new Wembley. When Wembley is eventually built (current estimates are 2006) a capacity of 90,000 seats is expected. With only 3000 car parking spaces planned it looks as if the ride on the tube will be pretty packed

Not for some though. Wembley National Stadium Ltd is in talks with Chiltern Trains to set up a new link between Marylebone Station and Wembley Stadium Station. This line will service ONLY fans that can produce a ticket for one of the premium seating areas of the stadium. Tickets for a train journey of only a few miles will 10 per head.

Not surprisingly the big companies thing this is a great idea, Wembley National Stadium Ltd commenting "It will be an exclusive service for our premium clients". And everybody else of course can fuck off and queue to try and get on the tube. Football fans still show a great tendency to fight with each other if given have the chance. Is it not time we stopped fighting each other and started fighting the likes of Wembley National Stadium Ltd?



Wombling Free

The football story of the year so far has been the success of AFC Wimbledon, formed by Wimbledon FC fans appalled at the prospect of their club moving 60 miles away to Milton Keynes.

Whilst Wimbledon FC have staggered on in the First Division - frequently attracting crowds of well under 1000 - AFC Wimbledon, formed in May 2002, have gone from strength to strength. Playing in the Combined Counties League, AFC Wimbledon is getting the biggest attendances in non-league football. These crowds are actually bigger than some professional clubs, and frequently three or four times bigger than Wimbledon FC.

AFC Wimbledon has had magnificent support from several ex-Wimbledon layers (Vinny Jones being a noticeable exception!) and is solely owned by The Don's Trust, made up of 2100 contributing Wimbledon fans.

Class War believes the working class can run this society without bosses, corporate capital or grasping shareholders. The fans of AFC Wimbledon are putting that theory into practice. They seem to be making a far bitter fist of things than Wimbledon FC!

Save York Hall from Yuppies!

York Hall in Bethnal Green is regarded as the home of British boxing. Virtually every great British boxer since the 1930s has fought there. As well as hosting boxing York Hall has a steamroom and Turkish Baths. This is not good enough however for its owner, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, who want to sell it off for..... you guessed it, a luxury apartment development. Tower Hamlets employed consultants Hillier Parker (who?) to carry out a feasibility study into leisure in the area. Money that could of course have been spent directly on improving leisure services. Following their report, the council's argument is that the area's high birth rate and poor health levels require "different facilities" than York Hall.

Much of what are portrayed, as "racial" issues in London are in fact class issues. This was amply illustrated by Sky Sports boxing programme, Ringside, in January, when it looked at this case. Rather than pointing out that the council envisages building posh flats on the site, Ringside concentrated on the fact that the area around York Hall is now largely Asian, and that most boxing fights are white. This was illustrated by asking local Asians if they knew anything about what happens at York Hall, and going to a pub owned by an ex-boxer and asking white locals what York Hall meant to them. The inference throughout the report was that a "new" East End is replacing the old.

Tower Hamlets Council are happy to parrot this, pointing out that many visitors to York Hall live outside of Tower Hamlets. So what? Most council would be pleased to have an internationally renowned venue on their books. Do they not want people to visit the borough?

Needless to say both Ringside and the council did not ask how a block of posh flats would improve local residents lives. Equally Ringside failed to point out that many Kickboxing events (a very popular sport with young Asians in east London) are held at York Hall. With idiots like Tower Hamlets leaders on the case, and reporters like Ringside, is it any wonder working class people in east London feel alienated not just from politics but from each other?

Time Gentleman Please?

In the last Class War we reported on the threat by Greater Manchester Police to enforce no drinking byelaws around Old Trafford on match days. At Uniteds home match against Newcastle in November police made there most serious attempt yet to prevent fans around the ground drinking.

The large crowds drinking outside the parade of chip shops just before you reach Sir Matt Busby Way were constantly harassed by cops who threatened them with arrest for . drinking beer in the street. Bare in mind this is Manchester, not Saudi Arabia. Anyone not putting cans in the bin would be arrested.

To reinforce their point cops positioned themselves outside the off-licence, telling fans as they went in that whilst they could buy beer, they could not open it! With many fans ignoring the cops, a kick off looked likely until the heavens opened and a downpour sent most fans into the ground. Since then the cops seem to have put back in their box, and even during the show of strength put on for the derby game against Manchester City fans were free to sup in peace. As they should be.

Plenty of Balls

Full marks to Zimbabwean cricketers Henry Olonga and Andy Flower for having the balls to wear black armbands during Zimbabwes first game in the cricket World Cup.

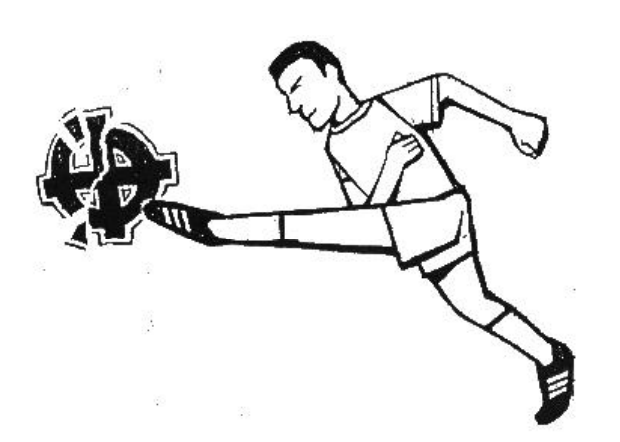
Whilst Africans have been uniquely badly served by their leaders in the post-independence area, there is little doubt that Robert Mugabe is up their with the worst dictators the continent has produced. Flower is likely to move to England to play county cricket. Olonga, however has had no such offer and at 26, may have caused irreparable damage to his career. Mugabe is the President of the Zimbabwean Cricket Union. Olonga has put his principles before his own career, and quite possible put his life at risk. He may not be as great a cricketer as the Australian drug cheat Shane Warne, but he is twice the man the empty-headed Warne will ever be.

A Drop of Good Claret

We are happy to reprint this excellent leaflet from the Burnley fans group, Clarets United.

WHY CLARETS UNITED AGAINST RACISM AND FASCISM

Football, like it or not, is important to all of us for many reasons, but primarily I believe it can help bring us together socially and re-enforce our sense of community, a community that must incorporate all races, all political persuasions, all sexual preferences, and all abilities. It is then, for precisely this reason that football is the very antithesis of fascism, racism and any other -ism that exists to divide and corrupt our precious game. Many supporters have at some time been verbally abused, spat at, chased or even kicked and punched because of their colour, this colour though, for most at least, can be removed after a match. Trouble generally ends on a Saturday and you dont usually need to be involved if you dont want to. In other words, many of us have experienced what its like to be the 'wrong' colour if only for a few hours at a time.



I'D RATHER BE A BASTARD ROVER THAN A CLARET FASCIST!

Ooooooh! Fighting talk! big deal, the bottom line is footy is a game, racism and fascism are a frightening and intimidating threat to anyone who doesnt fit in to the far right ideals of racial purity, physical ability, and correct sexual practices. In Burnley and more to the point, at Turf Moor the British National Party (BNP) is active and attempting to recruit further support for their racist activities. The BNP, represented in Burnley by Steven Smith, would have us believe that their ideology exists to 'save our country', nothing could be further from the truth, these are the same fascist scum that committed genocide and ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia, the same nazi menace that my grandfather and his comrades fought against in WW2. He died believing he had finished the job for good, now is the time to remember what our senior citizens were fighting for and to make sure it will never happen again. In Scotland the BNPs close relationship with football hooligans is clearly demonstrated by the fact that at least two of the parties eight candidates were deported from France during the world cup for football violence

OK, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

Current initiatives such as the premier league and government funded, - 'Kick it Out' campaign and the general shift of clubs to condemn racism in football, (which, in truth has probably got more to do with commercial interests) are positive moves in the right direction, but it is up to us as individuals on a local level to identify problems at our club and take action either by voicing our disapproval of racist behaviour directly in school, pubs, terraces or workplace or by informing match security , removing racist literature and graffiti and writing to the club or the press, it is vitally important our voice be heard over that of the nazi presence at Turf Moor. Footy is the biggest sport in the world and belongs to us all, each individual has the right to participate in football free of discrimination, regardless of ethnic origin, nationality, colour religion, gender, sexuality or disability be it as supporters or players. Clarets United Against Racism and Fascism is wholly committed to fighting racism, xenophobia, nationalism, anti-Semitism and any other form of discrimination in and around Turf Moor, Burnley or anywhere.

Clarets United can be contacted c/o PO Box 469 Preston, PR1 8XF or on the web at www.claretsunited.cjb.net